

Hafa Adai!

'42,000 stricken with cancer' **PAGE 3**

Mondala made to pay \$26,351 in restitution. **PAGE 6**

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75¢

FBI arrests MCC exec, three others charged

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Separate criminal complaints were filed in federal court yesterday against the project manager and an electrician for MCC International, the contractor for the Imperial Pacific Resort project, in connection with Thursday's search by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of a commercial building in Garapan.

» **FBI finds 189 out of 400 Chinese passports, indicating holders overstayed visa**

The complaint charged MCC project manager Yuqing Zhao, 42, and MCC electrician Pei Ruan, 28, with unlawful employment of aliens and bringing in and harboring certain aliens.

Zhao was arrested on Saturday and taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday afternoon for his initial

See FBI on Page 4

Torres wants DHS' help in labor crackdown

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

The Torres administration is set to request the Department of Homeland Security to allow local enforcement agencies to implement federal immigration laws.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres made the decision in the aftermath of the controversy with contractor MCC Inter-

national, one of the subcontractors of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's multi-million dollar casino hotel, Imperial Pacific Resort.

MCC project manager Yuqing Zhao and electrician Pei Ruan

were charged with violating immigration and labor laws at the U.S. District

See TORRES on Page 4



Torres



Senate summons CUC execs

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

The Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communication has invited Commonwealth Utili-

ties Corp. acting executive director William B. Gilmore and other management team members to attend an oversight hearing on April 11 at 9am at the Senate chambers

See SENATE on Page 4

NMI 2018 budget up 6 percent

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has proposed a budget of \$145 million for fiscal year 2018—an increase of more than \$10

million from last year.

The actual total amount of the budget for fiscal year 2018 is \$237 million but the amount the CNMI government could use for general appropriation

See NMI on Page 4

NEW STORE

IT&E president Ricky Delgado, fifth right, joins officials and guests in yesterday's opening of their Kagman branch. Others in photo, from left, are IT&E network operations director Velma Palacios and customer operations director Rob Harell, Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, IT&E chief operating officer John Compton, customer service manager Janice Tenorio, chief executive officer Jim Oehlerking, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar, IT&E general manager Rose Soledad, and sales and marketing manager Hans Mickelson.

See story on Page 3

INSIDE



OPINION

Ralph DLG Torres delivers at his State of the Commonwealth Address.

PAGE 11



YOUNGSTYLE

In today's YoungStyle, meet the winning STEM team of Kagman High.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

The Backstreet Boys owned the Academy of Country Music Awards.

PAGE 20



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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Sachiko Tahara, leftmost, back row, pose with Vivid Blue, a Japanese football team that has visited Saipan annually since 2007.
ERWIN ENCINARES



Local

Only one airport for Saipan flights stymies NMI chances

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

At one point in 1997, when the Japanese market was at its peak, you couldn't throw a stone without hitting a Japanese tourist. Now the shrinking Japanese market is starting to look like a dwarf.

In 1997, the CNMI had 450,190 Japanese visitors. In 2016, that number was down to 62,120. It is an understatement to say that there has been a huge decrease in the market compared to the past.

One of those who has witnessed this happen is 40-year-old Sachiko Tahara.

The coach of a Japanese soccer team that is known as Vivid Blue, Tahara has been frequenting Saipan for 10 years. She has made 15 trips to Saipan since her first trip in February 2007, mostly to play mini-tournaments with sister football club MP United.

According to Tahara, she keeps coming back to Saipan because of its community. "Although I cannot speak English very well, I feel something in common [with the people]. Even though we cannot communicate well with others, it is mostly the local people that make me come back," she said.

Tahara brings with her her team of soccer players to play friendly matches with the lo-

cal soccer clubs. Of her 15 trips to Saipan, 10 were soccer-related.

One reason why the parents of the children in her team allows them to go overseas and play soccer is because Vivid Blue has a longstanding relationship with many island residents.

Yet one of the reasons Saipan isn't too well known in Japan is because only the Narita airport offers flights between Saipan and Japan. Narita airport is a several-hour trip from Tahara's home in Japan.

"When we come to Saipan, we always use the same travel agency. I talked to the travel agent and, in most cases, according to them, if Japanese people go to Saipan once, that is good enough. The reason is because in comparison to Hawaii and Guam, it is very difficult because there is only one flight," she said.

"You can fly [to Guam] from [other airports in the country]," she added.

Tahara really hopes to see Saipan become as popular as it was back then.

"Something's got to be done. It used to be popular to tourists because Saipan was close, cheap, and safe. I really hope that other Japanese tourists would wish to come back to Saipan," she said.

See ONLY on Page 4



Know your Tides

A CITIZEN SCIENCE PHOTO CONTEST

Environmental Awareness Month: BECQ/DCRM

"Eco-friendly from the mountain to the sea"

Climate Change and Tides:

Climate change will cause sea levels to rise. Most of this water will be stored in the Pacific Ocean, and islands like Saipan will feel the effects. In the future high tides will come more landward than they currently do. Future low tides might start where today's high tides stop.

We can document this long term change through photographs and tide charts. Each of these serves as a record of tidal change. Documenting high tides now can help us know how future sea level rise might affect us.

Photographs

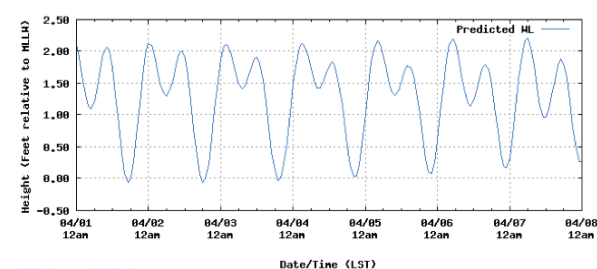
Please upload your photo of high tide or low tide from April 1—April 9 for Environmental Awareness Month. Photographing tides is one way to help planners and natural resource managers prepare for the impacts of climate change. Ideally, you'll want your image to capture the highest water line or the lowest water line. However, all images and associated data are helpful for the objectives of the Citizen Science project.

Take your photo facing parallel to the shoreline. If available, include some sort of feature in your picture – wall, bunkers, docks, or rocks make good markers.

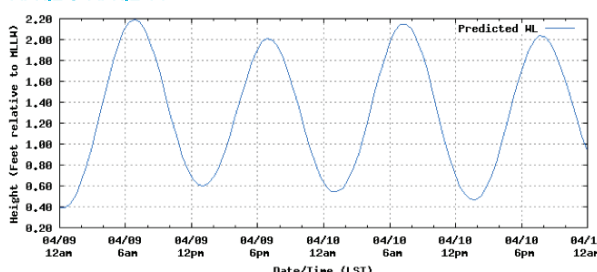
How these photos are used:

1. Document current tidal change in coastal areas
2. Visualize the impacts of future sea level rise in the community
3. Ground-truth and validate models by comparing predictions with reality.
4. Serve as a living record of change for future generations

APRIL 1-APRIL 8



APRIL 9-APRIL 11



NOAA Tide Charts: Tanapag Harbor, Saipan Island, Station ID 163327

Rules

Open contest dates are: April 1 – April 9, 2017

Submit:

All photos must be uploaded by 12:00 am April 10, 2017.
Facebook, Instagram, twitter.
Label: #KnowYourTides#DCRM#EAM
Facebook, Instagram, twitter



Caption: Date, Time, Location, Your Name, HighTide/Lowtide
** All tides must be accurately marked to win.

Categories:

General Public, 9-12 grade, 6-8th grade.
General Public –1st, 2nd, 3rd, Most likes
9-12 grade: 1st, Most Likes
6-8 grade: 1st, Most likes

Judges: Chelu Photography, BECQ

Prizes: A take home 12x18 canvas print of your photo
Your photo displayed at BECQ/DCRM events
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kw.saipan@gmail.com

IT&E opens new branch in Kagman

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

IT&E president Ricky Delgado said their company is working on improving broadband content to give their customers faster service on whatever device they are using.

IPI settles Ewing's lawsuit

Imperial Pacific International has settled the lawsuit filed against the company by a former employee.

U.S. District Court for the NMI senior judge Alex R. Munson disclosed yesterday that Imperial Pacific and Danny Ewing have entered an "irrevocable settlement."

Munson presided over a telephonic conference regarding the settlement.

Attorney William Fitzgerald appeared with Ewing, a former Best Sunshine International Ltd.'s casino vice president of table games. Imperial Pacific counsel George Hasselback and representatives of Imperial were also present.

Hasselback earlier informed the court that his client, Imperial Pacific, is willing to settle with Ewing.

In his lawsuit, Ewing alleged that the casino management was engaging in illegal practices, among other things, when it allowed a customer to deposit \$400,000 with the

Delgado was on Saipan to witness the opening of IT&E's new location in Kagman yesterday, giving the telecommunications firm a steady presence on the eastern part of the island.

"A lot has happened to Saipan since we took over the

casino's cashier without the required Anti-Money Laundering identification.

Imperial Pacific operates Best Sunshine Live, a casino and training platform, training casino workers to service its permanent casino, now being built in Garapan.

Ewing sued Imperial Pacific for wrongful termination, wrongful failure to hire, and intentional infliction of emotional distress. He demanded payment of unspecified amount of damages.

Imperial Pacific has denied the allegations. Hasselback has asserted that the federal court lacks jurisdiction over the claims contained in the lawsuit.

Hasselback also argued that Ewing's claims should be barred and/or limited by his failure to mitigate damages.

Hasselback said his client denies the allegations that the company failed to implement or enforce an adequate anti-money laundering program. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

company and it is more vibrant. It is always nice to take care of our customers, who've been supporting us through the years," said Delgado.

"People have come a long way from using talk and text on their mobile phones to data. That's why we're really investing heavily on our broadband offering, whether on your house or on your cell-phones."

IT&E had been in the CNMI for 16 years, four years of it spent waiting for approval from federal regulators.

Delgado pointed out that

people in the U.S. mainland are moving away from cable television. "They are just basically using broadband to get the content that they want. Our company is very supportive of that."

"We're committed to non-stop innovation, and taking broadband and higher speeds to people everywhere," said Delgado. "And we're giving people more data to go where they want to, without having to pay enormous cable bills. We're looking forward to this year and the year's ahead."

IT&E customer operations

director Rob Harell said the decision to open a Kagman branch is the result of surveys they did and requests of customers.

Harell said their Kagman store would also service customers on Capital Hill and parts of Tanapag.

"We're also looking at putting up another store on Rota. We're always looking for improvement and development. Also, when we move in a community, we 'move in.' We had adopted the road here and we plan to put up bus stops."

IT&E chief executive officer Jim Oehlerking said it was Harell's team who brought up the idea of opening a branch

in Kagman. "It gives convenience to our customers living here. We have a dedicated and committed team that's always ready to meet our customers' needs."

He added that IT&E plans to put up more cell sites and upgrade its LTE service.

IT&E sales and marketing manager Hans Mickelson said their Kagman branch is a full service store. "We've seen a growth in population here in Kagman and this branch will help our customers save time and gas."

IT&E's Kagman branch is open from Mondays to Fridays from 9am to 6pm, and on Saturdays from 9am to 1pm.

'42,000 stricken with cancer'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

Unfortunately or not, oral cancer is no stranger to the CNMI. On the islands, it was the third leading type of cancer in 2016. And one of the leading causes of oral cancer in the CNMI is chewing betel nut with additives such as tobacco and lime.

Nationwide, 42,000 individuals are diagnosed with oral cancer each year. Unfortunately, majority of these are found at later stages making it incurable and causing a high death rate in the U.S.

To combat this disease, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog signed a proclamation yesterday to raise awareness of the issue—he has designated April as CNMI Oral Cancer Awareness Month.

To mark the occasion, the Commonwealth Cancer Association will be partnering with different agencies such as the Seventh Day Adventist Dental Clinic, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Division of Public Health Service, CHCC Dental Clinic, Dental Care, New Wave Dental Clinic, Smile Marianas, and Tooth-Works to encourage people to get themselves checked.

Dentists are usually ca-

pable of spotting precancerous tissues, or cancer that has already formed and is at its earliest stage.

Free oral cancer screenings will be offered to the community throughout the month. This is to ensure the early detection of oral cancer and early prevention of the disease.

Juan Babauta, executive director of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, encourages everyone in community to take advantage of the free oral screening, to educate themselves and people they know who are at risk or are already suffering from oral cancer.

CCA will also be going around in April, sharing oral cancer presentations with the youth of the CNMI. The association plans to go to every school in the Commonwealth.

"This disease is increasing by numbers each year," said CCA vice president Nora Sablan. The goal of the association is to bring education and awareness to the younger generation. The association calls to the community to take part in the enforcement of oral cancer awareness throughout the month of April.

The proclamation was signed at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Susupe.



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FBI

From Page 1

appearance. After the hearing, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona remanded Zhao to the custody of the U.S. Marshal pending a detention hearing this Thursday at 4pm.

Zhao appeared with his counsel, Colin Thompson. Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley moved to detain Zhao pending trial, saying he is a flight risk.

It is not clear when the hearing for Ruan will take place, as apparently she has not been arrested yet as of yesterday afternoon.

The U.S. government also filed late yesterday afternoon separate criminal complaints against two more individuals, charging them with the same offenses.

In a statement yesterday, Imperial Pacific International said it has not received any notice of investigation from the FBI and that no employee of Imperial Pacific has been arrested.

Imperial Pacific said that based on information available, the search and arrest was made against certain construction contractors and sub-contractors involved in the resort/casino construction project in Garapan.

Imperial Pacific said it has paid its construction contractors the requisite fees for processing needed applications for workers to work on the construction project.

"Imperial Pacific will continue to implement measures and consider additional measures to ensure compliance of federal and local laws, and regulations and to fulfill its

contractual commitment to the community," the company said.

FBI special agent Scott Berkland filed in court on Friday an affidavit in support of criminal complaints and arrest warrants against Zhao and Ruan.

Berkland reports finding 189 Chinese passports in their search at MCC's office. The passports indicated that the holders had overstayed their visa parole period, he said.

Berkland disclosed that he and other FBI agents executed a court-authorized search warrant at offices located on the second floor of the Kase II Building in Garapan on Thursday.

He said Ruan identified herself as an employee of MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co. and was an electrician.

Ruan had a small red purse that contained over \$4,000 and

explained that she received the money from the MCC finance department and used the money to pay cash bonuses to workers, for which she maintained a handwritten ledger.

Berkland said that during a search of Ruan's office, they discovered several boxes and one Docomo bag filled with about 400 Chinese passports stored in a locked cabinet behind Ruan's desk.

At the FBI's request, Ruan unlocked the cabinet.

Among the passports in the cabinet were 181 passports of Chinese nationals who entered Saipan as visa parolees, he said.

Each of the passports the FBI inspected indicated the passport holder had overstayed their parole period.

In a locked drawer in Ruan's desk, Berkland said, the FBI discovered eight Chinese passports of individuals who

had entered the island as visa parolees. The agent said all eight passports indicated the passport holders had overstayed their paroles.

When asked about this, Berkland said Ruan stated that she was the government liaison for MCC, and was responsible for filing social security and other documents on behalf of MCC employees.

Ruan advised that her supervisor was Zhao.

Berkland said during the search, the FBI also interviewed an MCC executive and several other employees, who identified their boss as Zhao.

The FBI contacted Zhao at his telephone number at 11:45pm on Thursday to request that he take possession of the premises and receive the receipt of items seized during the search.

Berkland said Zhao arrived

at the Kase II Building at 12:15am on Friday and identified himself as the project manager for MCC.

The agent said Zhao's passport contained his CW-1 visa, which indicated he was sponsored by MCC International.

Zhao held a key to the MCC office premises.

Berkland said at the conclusion of the search, Zhao signed the receipt of items seized, and secured the premises.

FBI spokesperson Michele Ernst said the search warrant was against MCC International and Beilida Overseas (CNMI) Ltd., which is a sub-contractor to MCC.

Coincidentally, the Francisco C. Ada Saipan International Airport was awash with departing passengers on Sunday, many of them construction workers and many just had their tickets purchased Sunday.

TORRES

From Page 1

Court for the NMI yesterday. That included bringing in and harboring illegal aliens.

John F. Kelly is DHS secretary under the Trump administration. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Customs and Border Patrol are among the attached agencies under Homeland.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, on Thursday, made a search against the hiring practices of two companies in connection with the recent death of a worker at the Imperial Pacific Resort's construction site.

Torres, in a statement, said the FBI's recent act is part of his administration's goal of cracking down on those violating immigration and labor laws.

"For the past several weeks, I have been actively informing our business community that the practice of bringing in foreign workers under the guise of tourists will threaten our

economy and our continued growth," said Torres.

"The recent FBI action on MCC for their hiring practices is in line with my personal goal to increase penalties against those who threaten our community's progress."

He added that his administration's request is in connection with Section 287 (g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, authorizing Homeland to deputize selected state and local law officers in enforcing federal immigration laws.

"My office is working on submitting a request to the Department of Homeland Security to allow local CNMI officers to perform the duties of federal immigration officers," said Torres.

Section 287 (g) would also let local officers receive proper training and work under the guidance of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The ICE training would focus on identifying, processing, and—if appropriate—detaining immigration offenders.

"If approved, we will have the legal backing to continue

to crack down on this practice using CNMI resources, because it will not be tolerated. Additionally, I am working with the CNMI Legislature to create criminal penalties for any employer who bring in workers into the CNMI illegally," said Torres.

"I am told that this legislation will be introduced soon, and I am in full support of taking a hard line against those who profit from this illegal practice."

CNMI Labor Secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero said she encourages the affected workers, and even others, to get in touch with them if they have experienced work-related abuses and unlawful practices.

She added that they are also conducting their own investigation, with the cooperation of other CNMI government agencies and departments that regulate health, sanitation, and environmental matters.

CNMI Labor's investigation is in connection with alleged inhuman treatment of hundreds of Chinese construc-

tion workers. They are said to be living in cramped housing located in some abandoned complexes on the island. The staff housing can reportedly be found in Tanapag, As Terlaje, and Koblerville.

IPI statement

IPI (CNMI) LLC, in a statement, said they have not yet received any notice of investigation from the FBI. They also clarified that no employee of IPI had been arrested.

"Based on information available, the search and arrest was made against certain construction contractors and sub-contractors involved in the construction project in Garapan," said IPI's statement.

IPI's statement added that they had also paid their contractors processing fees for the application of their workers.

"Imperial Pacific will continue to implement measures and consider additional measures to ensure compliance of federal and local laws, and regulations and to fulfill its contractual commitment to the community."

SENATE

From Page 1

on Capital Hill.

Committee chair Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), in a letter addressed to Gilmore, said the oversight is in connection with additional information the committee requires on CUC's presentation to the Senate on March 21.

Gilmore, the CUC deputy director, is in an acting capacity since executive director Gary Camacho is off island, along with other board members. Camacho is reportedly coming back to Saipan before April 11.

CUC officials will have a full day of meeting with members of the Legislature since the House Committee on Public Utilities and Communication, headed by Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz has

also scheduled a meeting on that day at 1:30pm at the House chamber.

Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) is the PUTC vice chair with Sens. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) and Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota) as members.

Igisomar said he informed Gilmore that the committee has already received CUC's PowerPoint presentation, CNMI Settlement Agreement, their comments on Public Law 19-75, and their master plans on drinking water and wastewater.

The PUTC chair added that they are also following up on their request for CUC to provide documents regarding projected costs for the Department of Public Lands' homesteads.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

ONLY

From Page 2

Market downfall

Japan Airlines' decision to pull out of Saipan back in the early 2000's is really what sealed the deal for the Japanese market downfall.

As of today, the Francisco C. Ada Saipan International Airport caters to five airlines serving the Korean market, while the Chinese market is served by four airlines.

In comparison, the only airline serving the Japanese-Saipan market is Delta Air Lines, using a narrowbody airplane.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that MVA is "confident we'll have additional service from Japan in the coming months."

"This is an extremely valuable asset that we must pro-

tect for our economic stability," he said.

If for some reason the U.S. government decides to drop the Chinese-Russian parole authority of the CNMI, then the CNMI would be left with only about 300,000 visitors.

That visitor number means another depression for the CNMI, which could also translate to eventually losing the other tourist markets interested in Saipan due to the lack of funding for much needed renovations of dated infrastructures—an aspect that is important to a tourism-driven economy.

Japan and Korea are the only countries nearby whose visitors could enter the CNMI by just presenting their passports. This fact stresses the importance of the Japanese market to the CNMI and is also another reason why the CNMI should work even harder to regain the Japanese market.

NMI

From Page 1

is \$145 million after adjusting for debt service appropriations, earmarked funds, and other legal obligations.

It also sets aside 24 percent—\$56,030,504—to the Settlement Fund for the minimum annual payment sufficient to pay the 75 percent class members full benefits.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson gave a report of gross budgetary resources of \$237 million for fiscal year 2018. The amount jumped by more than \$33 million from last year's.

"In summary, after the application of all adjustments, this budget represents an esti-

mated increase of \$8 [million] or 6 percent from the previous fiscal year. This is a result of businesses showing a positive impact in our economy, triggering an increase in our tax collections across the board," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in his letter to the Legislature on Friday.

He cited that the aggressive marketing campaign done by the Marianas Visitors Authority contributed heavily to the CNMI's economy. "[We] encourage MVA to continue promoting the CNMI not only in our source market countries but in new [ones] as well."

"While we welcome and capitalize the gaming industry, we [also] welcome new ideas to help MVA promote the CNMI to come 'experience

the friendly Marianas.'"

Torres also cited the need to address the challenges the CNMI is facing at the airport. "What is considerably important is the need to address our pressing challenges from the entry of our visitors, to safeguarding our borders, and expanding and improving our airport facilities."

"We remain hopeful the visa waiver program will continue, the measure to increase our contract workers' cap to 15,000 will be approved by Congress, and extension will be granted to allow the CWs to continue to support our workforce needs beyond 2019."

Torres said the recommendations they made on the budget package encompass several approaches of a bal-

anced proposal. "In our initial approach, we examined past and current activities to ensure minimal allocation for the delivery of basic public services."

"Second, we kept all vacancies for those critical and essential programs. Third, we re-evaluated the results for each of the departments, and activities and allocated additional funding to the most critical and essential programs."

The House Committee on Ways and Means, chaired by Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), would review Torres' budget proposal, with Senate Fiscal Affairs head Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) leading the budget hearing for all departments, agencies, and divisions.



WOMEN'S GALA

IMPERIAL PACIFIC

The CNMI Women's Association-sponsored Women's Gala was held Friday evening and was graced by government, business, and community leaders. Among those who came in support are Imperial Pacific International majority shareholder Margaret Cui Lijie, IPI chair Mark Brown, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, first Lady Diann Torres, Commonwealth Women's Association chair Felicidad Ogomoro, and governor's special assistant on women's affairs Doris Drew.

Register now for Chamber's Corporate Challenge 2017

The 17th annual Corporate Challenge will be held on May 28, 2017, at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is inviting Chamber member businesses to join in the competition to win the title of Corporate Challenge champions.

Last year, the Chamber had nine teams that participated in the Corporate Challenge.

Team IPI #01 of Imperial Pacific took first place, winning several prizes, a trophy, and a year of bragging rights.

In second place was Fiesta Resort's "Fiesta Rockers" who demonstrated athleticism and team work.

The "Team Spirit" award was won by Hyatt Regency Saipan for the third consecutive year.

Trailing closely behind Hyatt was Team Delta Manage-

ment, which put on an amazing show of spirit and had the favorite team chant.

The 2015 Corporate Challenge champions, DFS, had an amazing tent display, creating a unique experience for all participants offering games and prizes.

Bank of Guam dominated the tug-of-war and beat out all other teams.

IT&E showcased technology at its finest in the costume portion of the competition.

The Chamber is now accepting company team registrations. Space is limited to the first registered teams. The deadline for registration will be on Friday, May 19, 2017, at 5pm. To register now, or for more information, call 234-7150 or e-mail administrator@saipanchamber.com for more information or visit www.saipanchamber.com. (PR)

Basa remanded to US Marshal

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal a federal probationer who was arrested again last week for allegedly violating the conditions of his release.

At a hearing on Thursday, Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy stated that there's no evidence as to why Francisco N. Basa should not be detained.

Kennedy set the revocation hearing for April 11 at 9am.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe, counsel for the U.S. government, moved for Basa's continued detention pending further hearings due

to his arrest for serious violations. inues to miss drug testing and counseling.

Basa, through counsel Bruce Berline, had no position on the matter of detention.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory Arriola disclosed that Basa failed to appear for counseling sessions and drug testing once last February and four times last March.

Arriola said Basa also failed to follow his instructions last March 5.

The court had revoked Basa's supervised release several times in the past for violating the conditions of the terms of his probation. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Mondala made to pay \$26,351 in restitution

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Office of Aging director Rose DLG. Mondala has been found owing the Office on Aging \$26,351 in restitution in connection with her corruption conviction.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo said that during Mondala's cross-examination and her own testimony at the restitution hearing last Tuesday, she failed to contradict the government's evidence and, in

several instances, supported the evidence.

"The court finds the Commonwealth's evidence largely uncontradicted and...such evidence easily satisfies the Commonwealth's preponderance of the evidence burden of proof," said the judge in his restitution order on Thursday.

The 72-year-old Mondala was ordered to begin making monthly payments of \$100 to Aging no later than last Saturday.

Govendo said the amount is based on Mondala's testimony that she cannot afford to make

a larger payment. Se is required to provide a larger payment once she is able to do so, on pain of contempt of court.

If she misses a payment, the Office of the Attorney General may file a motion to show cause. The same is required of the OAG if it learns of any extra income or financial resources that could hasten Mondala's payments.

Interest on the outstanding balance shall accrue annually at the rate of 9 percent.

In February 2016, Mondala pleaded guilty to forgery and use of public supplies, time, and personnel for campaign activities. Mondala's one-year sentence was later converted to house arrest.

In granting Mondala's mo-

tion to reduce her sentence, Govendo said he understands the goals intended by the sentence but he must weigh the risks of Mondala's fragility and the possible adverse effect a prolonged imprisonment would have on her health.

At last week's restitution hearing, assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley offered the testimony of the two lead investigators in the case as well as 56 exhibits.

The testimony and exhibits detailed a course of conduct by Mondala wherein the financial accounts of the Office on Aging were used for Mondala's own benefit and/or for the benefit of her then-political party, Covenant Party.

In particular, Govendo

said the testimony and several exhibits demonstrated that Mondala used Office on Aging accounts to authorize purchase orders on a litany of items, including food, beverages, and even personal home improvements.

For these transactions, the testimony and other evidence revealed that Mondala forged the signature of the employee responsible for authorizing Office on Aging expenditures in order to obtain thousands of dollars in food, beverages, and other items for her own benefit.

The testimony and other evidence further revealed that instead of providing these items to the proper recipients—Saipan's *man'amko*—the items were provided at

campaign fundraisers, campaign events, and other political parties and rallies.

For example, Govendo said, the testimony and exhibits revealed that while the Office on Aging was providing *man'amko* residents with frozen fish worth roughly \$635 per month, Mondala was purchasing, with Office on Aging monies, approximately \$5,000 in expensive and desirable fresh fish over the course of 12 days, ostensibly for political events.

The testimony, the judge noted, revealed that no Office on Aging staff member or cook recalled ever receiving any fresh fish for *man'amko* residents, much less \$5,000 of fresh fish in 12 days.



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to limit hiring to qualified US workers, as restricted by CNMI law, and that equal opportunity be given to all qualified US worker applicants regardless of age, sex or sexual orientation, religion, marital status, political status, veterans status, disability or place of origin.

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JVA#17-009: Chief Accountant
Annual Salary: \$45,000.00 - \$60,000.00 ** UNGRADED
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

**** The salary given will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.**

*If not filled, the vacancy announcement will be continued and applications will be reviewed every two weeks thereafter until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day.

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 for more detailed information on position description. A completed application must be submitted together with the required documents for consideration until search is closed. A resume may be attached, but the application form must be filled out in full. MVA is an equal opportunity employer.

Red Cross stages 31st walkathon

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

By all possible indicators—the amount of money raised and the number of walkers it had—the 31st staging of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter Walkathon last Saturday at the 4-H Building in Susupe was an unqualified success.

"...Look at the crowd. It definitely exceeded our expectations," said Red Cross executive director John Hirsch.

And it isn't just based on the number of people who were at the event. "The other component of our event is the ability to raise money for the Red Cross humanitarian work," Hirsch said.

This year's walkathon has gotten a bit better. "Every year it seems to be getting a little bit better in terms of the

various activities," said ARC board director Bob Coldeen.

The exact number of registrants and walkers cannot be determined yet until later in the week but, according to Coldeen, this year's walk was just as successful or even more successful than previous walkathons.

Overall chair Tayna Camacho agreed. "I would say that this is one of the best events yet."

The walkathon raises funds for the American Red Cross so it could continue its humanitarian work and promote healthy living. The event included exhibits for health screenings such as blood pressure, eye screening, blood sugar levels, and flu vaccinations.

The newest addition were the bouncy houses, according to Camacho. "There are four different bounce houses,

one in particular that is like an obstacle course. The kids are having a great time and parents are able to go to the exhibitors where the health screenings are."

Camacho was thrilled that the walkathon had something for everyone. "It's been a really great day for everyone," she said.

Coldeen acknowledged the help of the community in making this event possible. "The community has been so great in terms of all the activities for health and fitness. It's now bigger than just a walkathon, it's more like a healthathon."

The giveaways are also what differs this year's walkathon from the previous ones. "This year, registered walkers got a bucket and a Mickey plush toy, aside from the shirts," said Camacho.

Camacho is also thankful to the volunteers. "We're very fortunate that the people of the CNMI are very giving of their time. We have a really great pool of volunteers this year."

A Marianas High School student, Stephanie Gruy, was glad that she joined this year's walkathon. "The last time I joined was probably in 2012 and a lot has changed. This year's event is grander than I remembered and I have no regrets that I decided to attend this year."

The number of people who won free waterpark tickets has yet to be announced, as well as the people who won the iPad prize. The money raised has yet to be counted and will be announced this week.

The exact amount of registrants and school with the highest number of walkers will also be announced within this week, according to Hirsch.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Board Meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 — 9:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes
 - Regular Board Meeting — February 8, 2017 / Resumed Regular Board Meeting — February 21, 2017

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

IV. OLD BUSINESS

V. NEW BUSINESS

- FY 2018 Budget

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
IGNACIO L. PEREZ
Chairman of the Board



CPR CLASS

Northern Marianas College faculty members recently received their CPR certification cards after undergoing training to help ensure that all instructors are prepared for medical emergencies. The CPR certification course was taught by Johnny Aldan and Rosa Tudela from the NMC Nursing Department.

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American Red Cross Walk-a-Thon

PHOTOS By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Registered walkers gather at the starting point as they prepare to walk for the Walk-a-Thon last Saturday hosted by American Red Cross NMI Chapter.



People woke up early last Saturday to support and walk for the American Red Cross Walk-a-Thon.



Red Cross volunteers hand out T-shirts to all registered walkers at the American Red Cross Walk-a-Thon last Saturday.



The American Red Cross Walk-a-Thon last Saturday had a booth that allowed children and adults to come and see some of their showcased animals.



Refaluwasch dancers perform at the American Red Cross Walk-a-Thon last Saturday.



Bouncy houses were open for children who were registered walkers at last Saturday's American Red Cross Walk-a-Thon.



Registered walkers line up to get their T-shirts last Saturday at the American Red Cross Walk-a-Thon.

Manta Ray Battalion helps out at ARC walkathon

Like what it does every year, the Manta Ray Battalion of Saipan Southern High School helped out again at the American Red Cross annual walkathon.

In total, 36 cadets, including their instructor, SGM (ret.)

Joaquin Kiyoshi volunteered at the walkathon, held on April 1, 2017, starting at the 4H building in Susupe.

About 10 cadets volunteered to help set up the day before.

Cadets of the Manta Ray Battalion arrived at the event around 5:30am. They were in charge of helping pedestrians cross the street and monitoring the vehicles that come in and out of the event. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cadets from the Manta Ray Battalion pose in front of the American Red Cross flag after the walkathon.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The crosswalk detail is hard at work.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Another group doing crosswalk detail pose for a picture.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two female cadets carry traffic cones to the 4H building.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cadets, including SGM (ret.) Joaquin Kiyoshi, gather up after the road guard detail and prepare to leave.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The crosswalk detail allowed civilians to cross the road at 6am in the morning.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Trump is on the losing side of history on coal, climate change

President Donald Trump made good on his wrong-headed campaign promise to roll back the clock on coal. But the coal miners who surrounded Trump at the White House this week, as he tore up the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, probably know their industry is never again going to party like it's 1999. That's when U.S. coal production was near its peak.

Trump's executive order does not fundamentally change the economics of power production. The natural gas boom, fueled by fracking, is a huge factor. But coal production has dropped dramatically as renewable power has surged. For every one of the 70,000 coal miners in the U.S., there are nearly 10 workers (650,000) in the renewable-energy sector. That reflects the dramatically falling costs of wind, solar and other renewable energy sources. There are twice as many solar-power workers as coal miners alone. For a president who professes to be all about jobs, those should be compelling numbers.

There is no point in underselling the symbolic power and tangible policy consequences of Trump's retro embrace of dirty-fuel sources. It rightly feels like a punch to the gut for Americans worried that our children and grandchildren will be coping with the consequences of climate change.

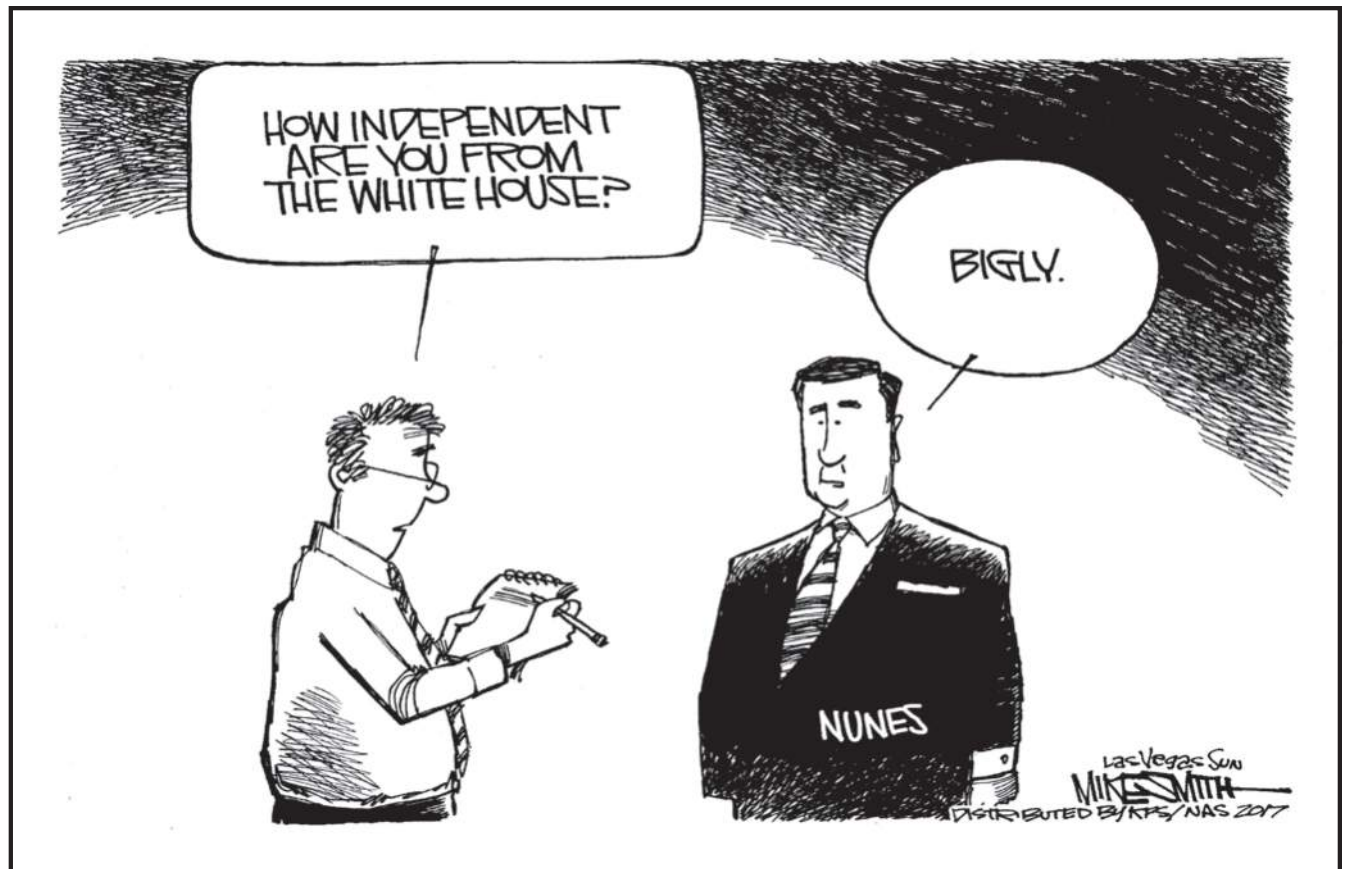
Tearing up the Clean Power Rule puts U.S. compliance with the historic international carbon-reducing Paris Agreement out of reach. The White House also signals it will roll back higher fuel efficiency standards for the auto industry, and the Trump budget proposal would gut the Environmental Protection Agency. Climate-change deniers have taken the castle.

But tearing up Obama's Clean Power Plan does not change the path that most states are already on _ to meet or exceed the carbon reduction goals embedded in the plan. In fact, of the 27 states which sued to block the Clean Power Plan, at least 21 were on a path to meet those goals by 2030.

Coal should stay in the ground, and probably will, despite Trump. Lifting regulations on coal will, at best, restore just 10 percent of coal's market share, according to The New York Times. But that fractional rise comes at a huge cost to the global movement to address climate change.

As Obama's Clean Power Plan wound its way through the courts, 18 states stepped forward to defend it. Now, they and their allies in the environmental community should step forward again and demand an energy policy that accounts for the cost of carbon. Trump's actions this week won't employ many coal miners, but it should be

(c) 2017 The Seattle Times



The Russia affair: To commission or not?

To commission or not to commission? That is the question facing Congress and the White House regarding how best to investigate Russia's meddling in the 2016 elections.

Actually, let me rephrase that: That is the question that should be facing Congress and the White House.

There is no indication, however, that the independent commission question is receiving any serious attention on either end of Pennsylvania Avenue since Republicans control both ends of that famed thoroughfare (although "control" is too strong a word for the mastery Republicans are able to exert on anything these days).

On the other hand, two-thirds of the American people support an "independent commission investigating the potential links between some of Donald Trump's campaign advisors and the Russian government," according to a recent Quinnipiac Poll. And Democrats in Congress want a commission or a special prosecutor. It is still an open issue.

Democrats might want to be careful what they wish for because the history of independent commissions—there are several types—is mixed. Republicans might want to reconsider their knee-jerk rejection of committing to a commission for the same reasons. The partisan fallout of commissions and inquisitions is not always predictable. Nor is their usefulness in explaining or investigating their assigned topics.

The most compelling reason to form an independent commission is decidedly not to investigate whether Trump or any Trump associates or staff colluded with Russian meddling. In the end, that is a criminal or prosecutorial matter. Congressional committees and independent commissions don't indict evildoers but they can surely muck up cases against them. The criminal part should be left to the prosecutorial pros—the FBI and the Justice Department. In my mind, it is obvious the Justice Department ought to appoint a special prosecutor to oversee that investigation; both the attorney general and the director of the FBI already are tarnished and conflicted.

The case for some kind of commission will be stronger if a special prosecutor is not appointed, which seems likely. Commissions and prosecutors, however, have different missions that aren't always compatible. A prosecutor is not a substitute for oversight.

In the Russian affair, there are obviously urgent questions far beyond the purview of a criminal investigation, whether FBI Director James Comey or a special prosecutor leads it. They include: Were Comey's various public pronouncements about the investigation of Hillary Clinton's emails improper or unethical? Should the Obama administration have made public more of what it knew about Russia's operations in the U.S. before the election? Did the intelligence community do a competent job of detecting and rebutting Russia's attempts to undermine the elections? Are the intelligence community and election oversight organizations prepared for the next elections in 2018 and 2020? Now, isn't it the job of the House and Senate intelligence com-

By DICK MEYER

Scripps Washington Bureau

Dick Meyer is Chief Washington Correspondent for the Scripps Washington Bureau and DecodeDC (www.newsnet5.com/decodedc).



mittees to answer precisely those kinds of questions? Indeed it is.

The question then is whether those committees have enough credibility within Congress and with the public to give trusted answers. The answer for the House Intelligence Committee is absolutely not. The answer for the Senate Intelligence Committee is probably not.

Together, these threads tie up the case for an independent commission fairly well. A criminal investigation, unless led by a special prosecutor, will be tainted and it can't address policy questions. The standing congressional committees already are locked in partisan combat at a time when Congress is held in public contempt anyway. The question of Russian interference in American elections is obviously commission-worthy.

So what kind of commission? There are three different setups we refer to as independent commissions: presidential commissions, obviously are appointed by the president (the Warren Commission on the JFK assassination, the Rogers Commission on the Challenger disaster); "joint" commissions are created by Congress (the 9/11 Commission led by Tom Kean and Lee Hamilton); and special committees of Congress like the Senate Watergate Committee and the Iran-Contra committees.

The record of commissions isn't so strong that it is a slam-dunk case that we need one now. Some have been shallow, partisan or interfered with criminal prosecutions. Others met pressing national needs.

Philip Shenon, who has written histories of the Warren Commission and the 9/11 Commission, recently wrote that history doesn't offer "much hope that an independent commission would accomplish the Democrats' goals, at least not if those goals include getting to the bottom of this mess in a timely fashion and holding individuals accountable for their wrongdoing."

In the real world, Trump will not appoint a presidential commission and the Republican Congress won't sanction either a joint commission or a special committee of Congress—not unless a stash of smoking guns turns up that gives them absolutely no choice.

The upside of this partisanship is the country might be spared a long political circus. The downside is that we may never know the full story of the Russian escapades of 2016—and we'll still have to endure a long political circus.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

State of the Commonwealth Address

By **RALPH DLG TORRES**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The following is the text of the speech the authors delivered at his State of the Commonwealth Address on Friday, March 31, 2017, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. It is being published in two parts due to its length.

Last of two parts

Utilizing our *man'amko's* love and respect for our islands is the model I will continue to use as the marker for this administration when it comes to issues concerning the protection of our environment and our island way of life.

To be absolutely clear, I want everyone to understand that this administration has in this past year—and will continue in the future—make public land use and development decisions that ensure the protection and beauty of our islands are maintained and ecosystems stay healthy.

We cannot allow our greatest asset—our environment—to be harmed or disrespected. I will continue to balance and encourage economic growth and development, but not at the price of harming our natural beauty.

During the last year we have, for example, witnessed the closing of the Puerto Rico dump and conversion of that property into the Governor Eloy S. Inos Peace Park, which is something we can all be proud of. The park stands as a testament to the legacy of our late governor who was an environmental champion.

And last December, I was very proud to have signed a document that returned what was rightfully ours from the beginning: our submerged lands. This transfer of ownership strengthens our shared dedication to sustain our unique natural resources for years to come and for our children and grandchildren to benefit.

And I believe there are no better stewards of our environment than those who live and depend upon the land. That is why I have directed the Department of Public Lands to move forward and eliminate obstacles preventing the CNMI government from continuing to issue homesteads to our people.

I am proud of the work of our DPL on taking charge of this, opening homesteads throughout Rota and Tinian, and most recently issued 13 homestead lots on Saipan for the first time in three years. And more are on the way such the agricultural homesteading program for Pagan.

Another example of prioritizing our environment that I am proud of is reaching an agreement with the United States Air Force that Tinian is the best location for the proposed divert and exercises airfield.

The Department of Defense's leasing of two-thirds of the island since the formation of the CNMI has stalled the development of the community. The property, which the United States holds under lease for another 66 years, was given with the promise of economic development and activity—a military air base, schools, medical facilities and movie theater.

But instead, after 41 years, two-thirds of the island was not developed. By tying up this vast portion of the island, the military lease restricted potential growth on Tinian.

But now, with the agreement that the divert project will be located on Tinian, economic activity can now begin to happen and I want to thank the United States Air Force and assure you we will continue to work together to make this project a success, especially toward the progress of the Tinian community.

And finally, the CJMT project and the live-fire training range projects proposed for both Tinian and Pagan as presently planned must be recognized as one of the most important environmental and politically challenging issues facing the CNMI today.

There should be no mistake. The CNMI is more than willing to do its part and provide resources for the common good, for the defense of the United States. One of our islands and the waters in a 12-mile radius around FDM are already used exclusively for live fire bombing and training activities.

That is why I believe that asking the sons and daughters of Pagan to give up hope of returning to the land of our ancestors, or allowing the use of Tinian for the high-caliber live-fire training to fulfill the training needs of the entire armed forces located in the Western Pacific, is unreasonable, and contrary to what we agreed to when joining into political union with the United States almost 50 years ago.

I couldn't help be reminded of this fact last week, we celebrat-



JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres delivers at his State of the Commonwealth Address on Friday, March 31, 2017, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Behind him are House Speaker Ralph Demapan and Senate President Arnold Palacios.

ed our Covenant Day. This agreement is more than a political document. It is the embodiment of our rights as a people, who willingly joined the United States under terms we negotiated as equals. I will continue to protect our interests guaranteed under our Covenant. It is who we are, and I will fight for its integrity and importance now more than ever.

I thank Mayor JP San Nicolas, for his ardent support on behalf

As public servants we do not have the luxury of simply pointing to problems, we have the duty to do the hard work to solve them.

of the needs and future of the Tinian people.

And I want to take a moment of silence for a champion of our most untouched resources, the guardian of Gani, our late mayor Jerome Aldan, who I have witnessed time and time again fight on behalf of the heritage, future and importance of our treasured islands in the north.

The goal we all share for a healthy population is a reflection of more than just quality healthcare. It requires stable incomes, sanitary housing, good nutrition, and the sustainable pathways to financial viability and labor in our health care network.

I understand that the issues facing our islands' only hospital are complex and do not get solved overnight. And I commend the hard work being done every day by our doctors and nurses and our public healthcare officials.

But it is important to note that we are in the midst of a healthcare crisis. Our healthcare system, as in most of the other U.S. territories, faces major challenges in the areas of access, financing, and labor.

Certainly one of the most dire needs of the CNMI under the CW program is the access to trained and qualified healthcare professionals and is one that is at the forefront of our discussions toward the passage of HR. 3-3-9, which is now with the U.S. Senate.

If passed, HR. 3-3-9 will allow for a momentary increase of

By **RALPH DLG TORRES**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Ralph DLG Torres is governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

the CW program's numerical limitations this year to allow these vital personnel to continue providing the essential services our people need.

And beyond our hospital's labor needs, my administration understands that it is important that we help CHCC efficiently manage its finances.

As I mentioned earlier, last December, we made a supplemental appropriation of \$7 million for CHCC to pay the past due and outstanding balance to CUC.

Our doctors, our nurses, and our public health officials deserve the peace of mind of making sure CHCC's finances, utilities, and infrastructure don't hamper the real work being done by our medical professionals, who dedicate their lives to their patients and making sure they get the care they need.

This is a reason why I signed a law establishing the CHCC governing board to efficiently manage our hospital's finances by preparing a business plan that not only addresses current revenue shortfalls, but also ensures that the hospital becomes fiscally sustainable for the future.

And as our revenues continue to increase, I will personally make sure that our hospital gets its supplemental appropriation this year so that we can focus less on financing and more on the healthcare concerns facing our community.

One of our biggest healthcare concerns happens also to be our biggest public safety priority. And it is one that hits most, if not, all of us, too close to home.

We see it in the papers. We talk about it among our family and friends. And we feel it when we see someone we love dragged into a cycle of abuse and addiction.

When I get a report from DPS that an officer has arrested another ice user, I would be lying if I told you that I was pleased or happy that they will be put behind bars.

Each new report of abuse of that drug that I read is never easy to receive or accept. I understand the impact that comes with this terrible addiction. I am disheartened as I see a familiar face walking in the streets seemingly lost, because at that moment, I realize that someone is missing a mother, a father, a brother, a sister, a son, a daughter, or even a friend. And what weighs even heavier in my heart is that families are now turning away from their loved ones and are giving up. We cannot and will not give up.

The ice crisis on our islands is real. And in this chamber right now, there are people here who have stories. There's heartache and pain. But there's also resilience and strength.

I've made the War on Ice an important element of my administration, and I'm glad that this issue has been undertaken by all three branches of our government. That spirit of collaboration was seen when we established the CNMI's first drug court back in October 2015.

I commend Chief Justice Castro and Presiding Judge Naraja for their leadership in managing this new addition to our judicial branch. I would also like to recognize Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio for giving this drug court the direction it needs to succeed. They deserve a round of applause.

To further enhance our goal of getting our loved ones the care and treatment they need, I established the rehabilitation program—the signature policy initiative of my administration. This new program's mission is to provide recovering drug addicts with the tools necessary to reintegrate into society.






The program is working hard to establish a residential service that would provide a 24-hour high-quality extended care for individuals with chronic addiction needing long-term, supervised residential treatment. And within this program, gambling addiction and PTSD for our veterans will also be served.

So I say this, let's continue to work together to get non-violent drug offenders out of jail and into treatment programs. It's good for them and their families, and it lessens the load of the hardest working people in our community: our law enforce-

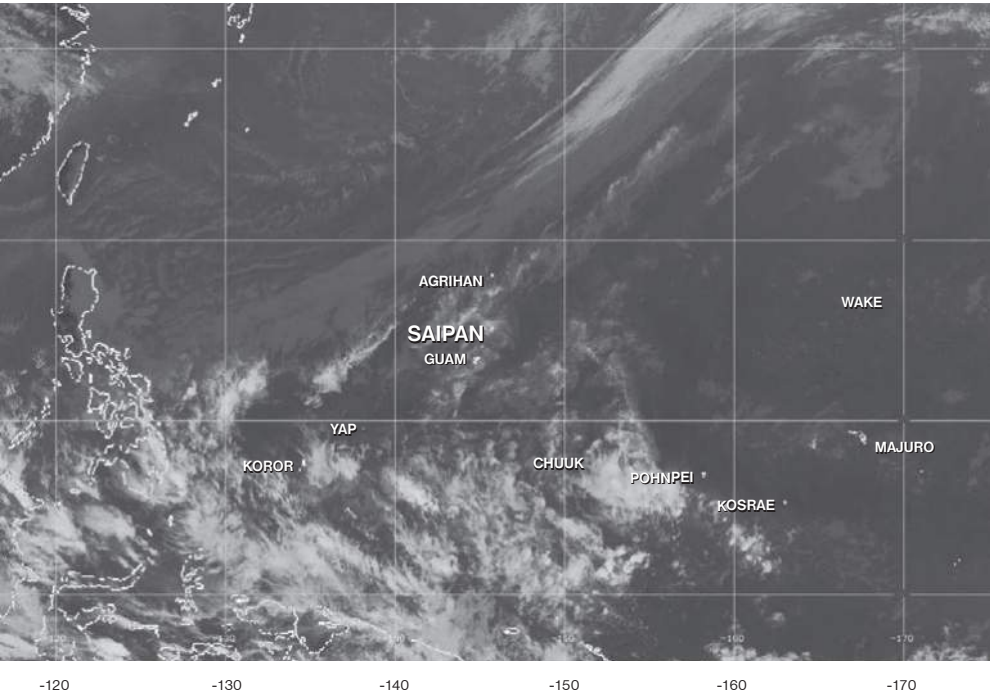
See STATE on Page 17

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Considerable cloudiness with occasional rain showers.	Windy. Showers in the morning becoming widely scattered in the afternoon.	Windy with scattered thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy early. Scattered thunderstorms developing in the afternoon.	Mixed clouds and sun with scattered thunderstorms.
▲84° ▼76°	▲84° ▼76°	▲84° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲84° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:34 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The GFS has backed off considerably on bringing in much moisture, with the deepest moisture today. Beyond that, moisture is confined mainly below the 800mb level. Thus, have mostly cloudy (partly sunny) skies today, but only partly cloudy after that. Showers look to be isolated through the week. Winds are slowly increasing, and should be 15-20 mph tonight through most of the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86 78 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	86 78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	86 72 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86 79 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 78 °F
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	85 79 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	73 68 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	72 52 °F
Hong Kong	Sunny	72 63 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84 71 °F
London	Partly Cloudy	60 39 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	76 55 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90 76 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	76 49 °F
Miami	Mostly Sunny	86 75 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	61 48 °F
Osaka	Sunny	65 44 °F
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	65 44 °F
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	73 46 °F
Rome	Mostly Sunny	71 50 °F
Salem	Mostly Sunny	57 42 °F
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	68 51 °F
Seoul	Sunny	67 44 °F
Tokyo	Sunny	61 45 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	77 53 °F



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:35 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.72
7:58 AM	LOW TIDE	1.16
12:43 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.67
8:23 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.05

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:10 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:09 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:39 AM	12:25 PM
Wednesday	-	1:34 AM	1:22 PM
Thursday	-	2:25 AM	2:18 PM
Friday	-	3:13 AM	3:12 PM
Saturday	-	3:58 AM	4:04 PM

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily			
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
			5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			



8 FUN FACTS ABOUT EASTER

As a celebration that includes chocolate and bunnies, Easter is at the top of the favorite holiday list. Did you know these 8 facts about this Christian holiday?

1 The term Easter gets its name from Eastre, the Anglo-Saxon goddess who symbolizes the hare and the egg.

2 The exchange or giving of Easter eggs actually dates back to

before Easter and the giving of eggs is actually considered a symbol of rebirth in many cultures.

3 There used to be a tradition churches observed that resembled the game of "hot potato." Here, the priest would toss a hard-boiled egg to one of the choir boys. The boys would toss the egg amongst themselves and when the clock struck 12, whoever had the egg was the winner and got to

keep the egg.

4 The Easter egg is said to symbolize and represent joy, celebration and new life.

5 Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Christ; it is the oldest Christian holiday and one of the most important days of the year.

6 The tallest Easter egg chocolate was made in Italy in

2011. It stood at 10.39 meters and weighed an astounding 7,200 kg.

7 The art of painting eggs is called *pysanka*, which originated in Ukraine. It involves using wax and dyes to color the egg.

8 The idea of the Easter bunny giving candies and eggs is said to have originated in Germany during the Middle Ages.

No matter how old you are or where you are in the world, Easter is a fun family tradition that never gets old. From the Easter egg hunts to taking your first bite of that chocolate bunny, it is not only a special religious holiday that marks an end to Lent but one that represents the resurrection of Christ. For those who aren't so religious, Easter marks a long weekend, filled with fun. *(From Elite Daily)*

An interview with Mr. Scott Russell



By **ALEX MEGINO**
TANMS student, 7th Grade

Question: What does the Humane Society do?

Answer: Let me clarify that I work for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. The council is a private, non-profit organization with the following mission statement "The mission of the council is to foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The main humanities disciplines (or areas) are: archaeology, comparative religion, ethics, history, languages and linguistics, literature, jurisprudence and philosophy.

We address our mission by offering the public a wide variety of humanities programming. We also offer matching grants to organizations in the community to support grassroots humanities projects.

Q: What is it like to be a part of the Humanities Council?

A: Working for the Humanities Council has been a very rewarding experience for me. I have greatly enjoyed helping

to develop programs, including those for junior high and high school students, that make the humanities an important part of everyday life.

Q: What do you consider the most important?

A: The council offers a number of public programs including: the Junior High Mock Trial program; the Motherhead Family Literacy Program, the Sengebau Poetry Competition, public lectures on humanities topics of interest to our community, the Micronesian Authors Initiative, the Digital Archives Initiative, the Humanities-Half Hour radio program; and the bi-annual Marianas History Conference.

Q: What other attractions are there in Saipan that not many know about?

A: Saipan is rich in historic and cultural sites. You may have visited some of these sites on school field trips. There are archaeological sites associated with ancient Chamorro life, buildings and structures from the Japanese colonial administration, and many sites that are associated with the World War II battle for Saipan.

Q: What did Saipan in its early development look like?

A: It depends on what you



Scott Russell is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

mean by "early development." I've lived on Saipan for about 43 years. When I first arrived, the community on Saipan was much smaller, only about 14,000 people. There was not much development. The roads, which were built during World War II, were only two lane and many were not paved. [There were] not

many cars and there were no traffic jams. There were only a few small stores and most people worked for the Trust Territory government. The beaches were clean, and there were lots of fish, lobsters, coconut crabs, fruit bats and other local foods readily available. It was more peaceful back in those days, but

there were not many economic or educational opportunities for the people.

Q: Is that true that you were the first one to discover the sunken Spanish galleon? Please tell us more about this discovery.

A: Well, it is true that I had the great opportunity to work with the firm that recovered artifacts from the Spanish galleon *Concepcion*, which wrecked off Agincourt Beach in 1638. That project went on for two years during which I was one of two government coordinators who had full access to the recovery work. So I was able to scuba dive the wreck site and helped to recover artifacts. All of the artifacts recovered from this wreck are now at the CNMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan.

Q: How do you see your research helping the islands, islanders, and human history in general?

A: Archaeological and historic research is needed in order to develop an accurate history of the Mariana Islands. These islands were first settled nearly 4,000 years ago. The local community is very interested in learning about its past and research that we help to support plays a critical role in expanding

our knowledge about the past.

Q: What can we, the younger generation, do to help the research and how to preserve the findings?

A: The younger generation can become actively involved in historic and cultural preservation work. Some students may want to consider studying to become historians, anthropologists, and archaeologists so that they may continue the research that has been done to date. They can also become involved in preserving local languages and cultural traditions in the face of increasing globalization.

Q: What is your next project?

A: Right now, I am helping to plan the 3rd Marianas History Conference that will be held on Saipan in September of this year. We are expecting 50 or more people to give presentations during this conference. Their research papers, on a variety of topics, will be published after the conference so that this new research is available to the public.

Scott Russell is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

My Cool Hobby

By ZLATA VEKHOVA
SIS student, 6th Grade



My cool hobby is singing and playing the guitar. I enjoy it, because it is really fun and I can spend my time doing something interesting. There are a lot of benefits of playing an instrument and one of them that it helps me to relax and have a stress-free life. Playing music is what I really like.



MUSIC CORNER

An interview with Maestro Roman Rudnytsky after a concert

By ALEX MEGINO
TANMS student, 7th Grade

Mr. Rudnytsky, we would like to thank you for the unforgettable evening of the classical music that you have performed for us on Friday! Here are few questions we hope you could answer for the children of Saipan who love music:

Question: What is it to be a musician?

Answer: Well, to be a "musician" of any kind, one has to have talent in that direction. Then hard work and study follows. Time will tell what will become of that person—what level he or she will reach. I think that being a musician is a super thing, especially, a "performing musician," because then,

with your performances, you bring some sort of "meaning" in people's lives. They are elevated, enriched, educated, and entertained (the four "e's," as I call them).

Q: What attracted you particularly to the piano?

A: There was never a decision by me to play the piano. I came from an entirely musical family; my father had an important career (being a pianist, composer, and

conductor, particularly the latter two). So it was totally "natural" for me. My parents saw that, even when I was or 2 or 3, "something" was pulling me to the piano. I would listen to my father give piano lessons and I would try to pick out tunes on the piano. I also showed I had perfect pitch (I am the only one in my family who has this; this is inborn). So, seeing all this, my father started giving me les-

sons when I was 4 years old, but only for a short time, then I went to other teachers.

Q: Are there other instruments that you have a passion for?

A: I did study violin for 10 years. It was my "second instrument," although I was never a professional on it. And when I was in grade and high school, I played clarinet in the band.

Q: Which artists/musicians influenced your work?

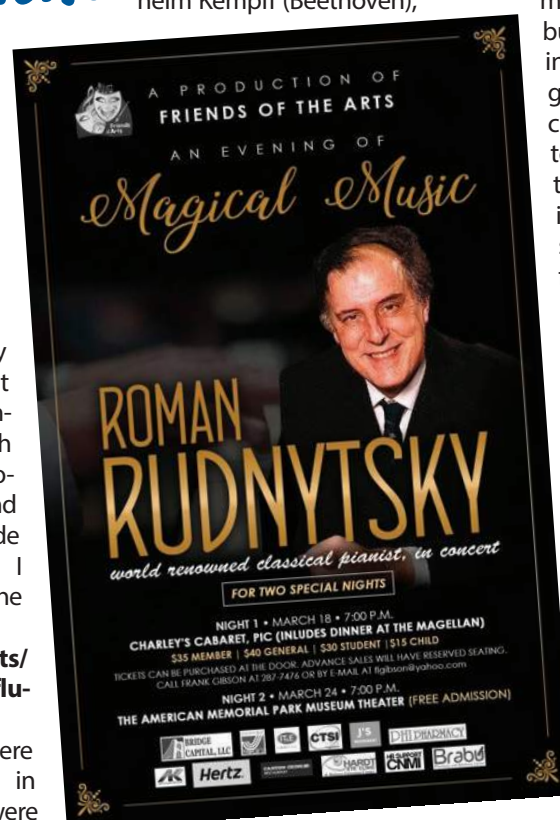
A: Well, there were particular pianists in my field who were

"models" and "inspiration" for me in certain areas of the repertoire. They were very well-known within the field, such pianists as Wilhelm Kempff (Beethoven),

son and five grandchildren (my daughter has four of them). My daughter and son did take lessons. My daughter (the older one) did have more of "natural talent" but it wasn't really going anywhere after I gave it a reasonable chance. That's OK. It is too soon to tell [about the] grandkids. It is OK by me if they do some other career. It's fine by me as long as they are productive people when they grow up and move ahead with their lives.

Q: How would you describe the changes that are happening with music and to musicians over the generations?

A: Composers who have written music have always tried to illustrate their times through what



Arthur Rubinstein (Chopin), and Walter Gieseking (Debussy and Ravel). And, Vladimir Horowitz for overall virtuosity. These were very famous pianists in the first half of the 20th century.

Q: When you perform, when you share your talent, what is it that you receive in return from the audience? How is it different from age to age, country to country?

A: I would like the audience to feel something "positive" from my performances. If they feel that, then I have done my job well! I don't think it is different from country to country or age to age. People either respond, or they don't. I have been very fortunate in that they *do* respond, since I have been told this over and over again after any concert. So that tells me that maybe I'm "doing something right!"

Q: Do you have children of your own? If yes, do they follow you in their choice of a career?

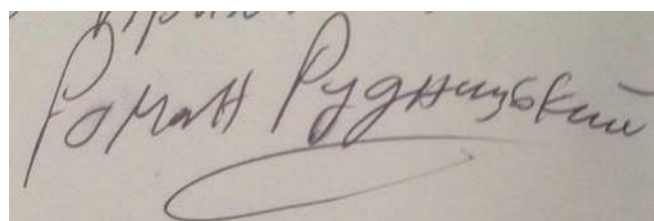
A: I have a daughter and a

they created. If they communicated strongly enough, their music then passed the "test of time" as time went on. Some of their music was not always fully understood in their time, but, that doesn't matter. If it really "said something" then, it would pass that test of time. Beethoven, for example, is well-loved today [yet] he was not understood by many in his time.

Q: What is the music of the future (your thoughts)?

A: We don't know at this point in time what the "music of the future" will be. There will be "great composers" of today, but we don't know yet who they will be. Thirty, 40, 50 years have to pass and then we will see who seems to "stick up above the others." This has been so in every age of classical music.

I look forward to coming back next year and hope you will enjoy my recital then as much as you have enjoyed this one!



If you are targeted by cyberbullies, it's important not to respond to any messages or posts written about you, no matter how hurtful or untrue. Responding will only make the situation worse and provoking a reaction from you is exactly what the cyberbullies want, so don't give them the satisfaction.

Tips for kids or teens dealing w/ cyberbullying



Preventing communication from the cyberbully, by blocking their email address, cell phone number, and deleting them from social media contacts. Report their activities to their internet service provider (ISP) or to any social media or other web sites they use to target you. The cyberbully's actions may constitute a violation of the website's terms of service or, depending on the laws in your area, may even warrant criminal charges.

Saving the evidence of the cyberbullying, keep abusive text messages or a screenshot of a webpage, for example, and then report them to a trusted adult, such as a family member, teacher, or school counselor. If you don't report incidents, the cyberbully will often become more aggressive.

It's also very important that you don't seek revenge on a cyberbully by becoming a cyberbully yourself. Again, it will only make the problem worse and could result in serious legal consequences for you. If you wouldn't say it in person, don't say it online. Instead, respond to cyberbullying by:

Reporting threats of harm and inappropriate sexual messages to the police. In many cases, the cyberbully's actions can be prosecuted by law.

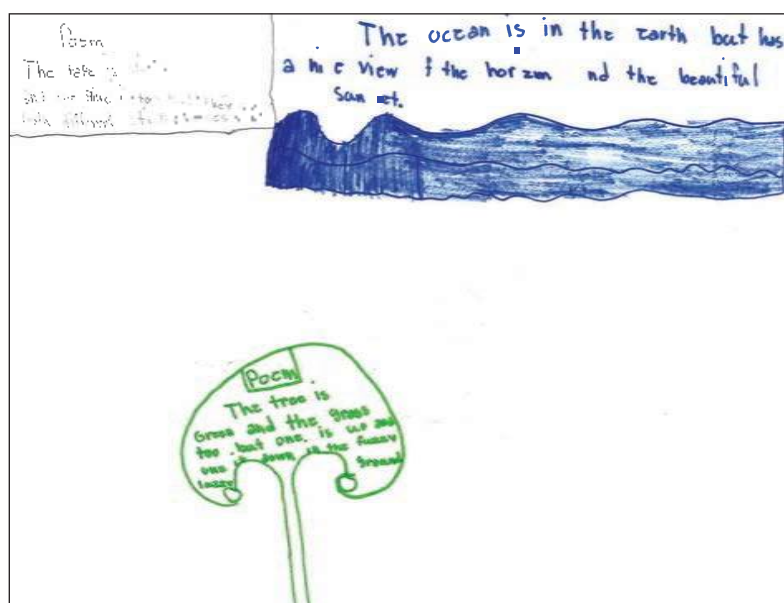
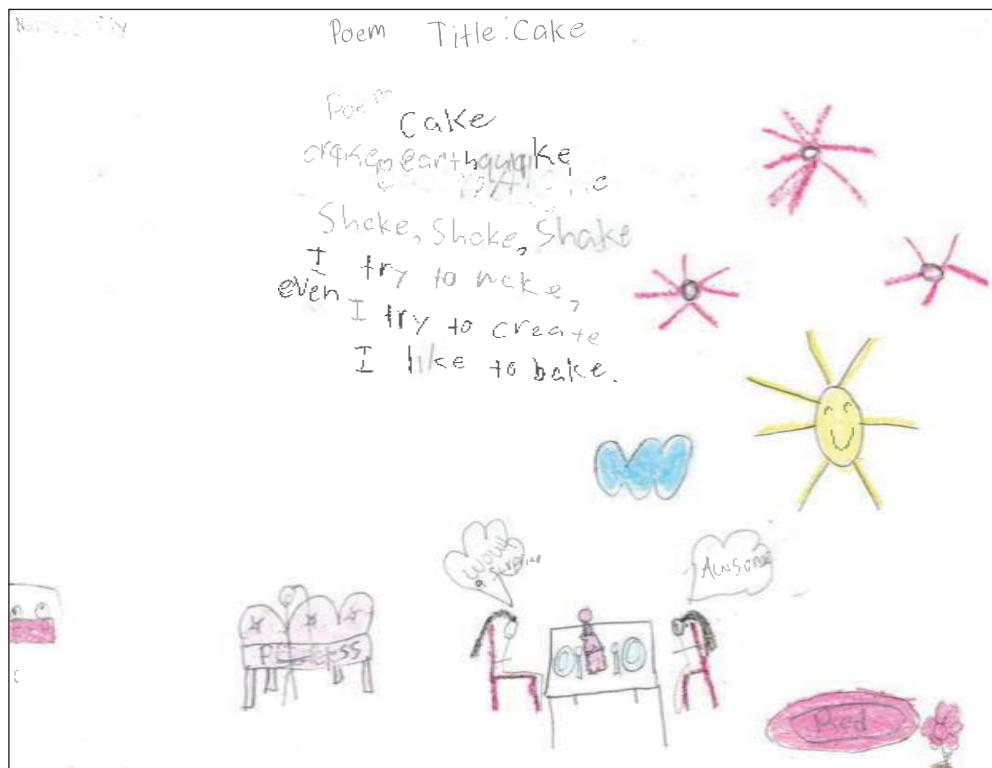
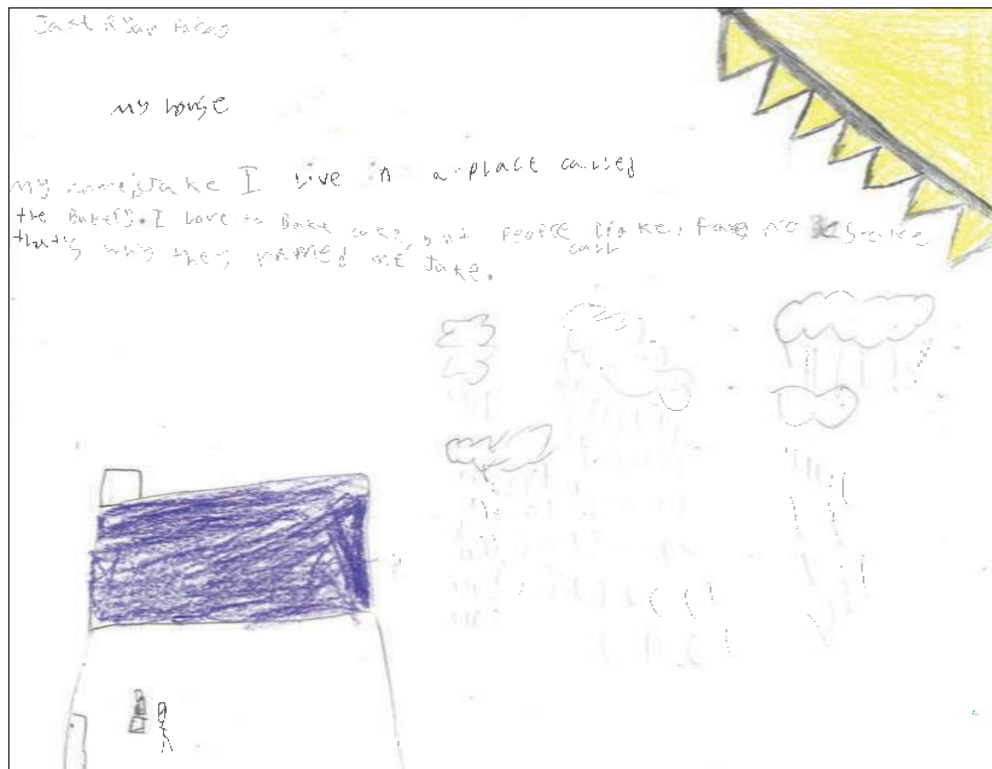
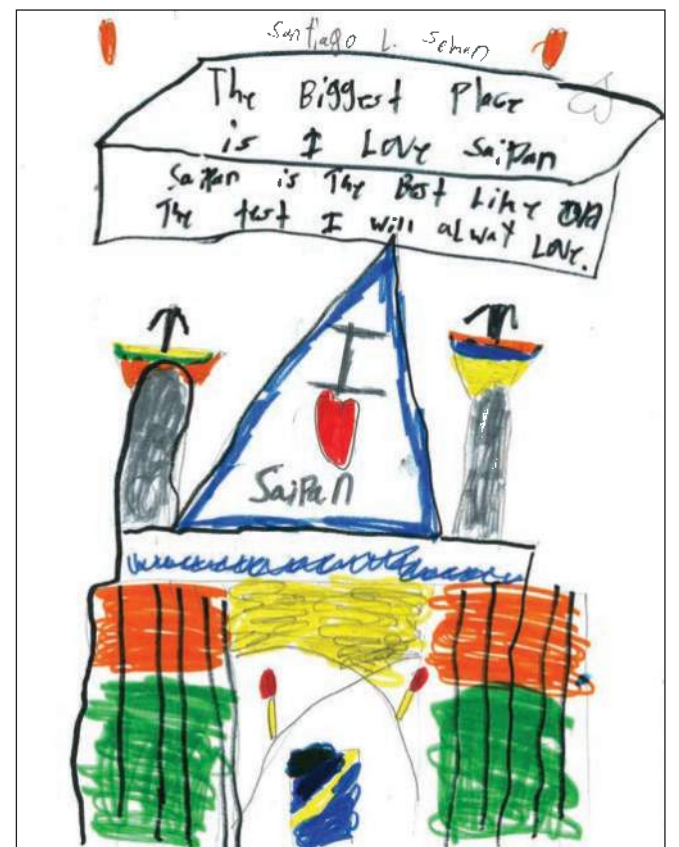
Being relentless. Cyberbullying is rarely limited to one or two incidents. It's far more likely to be a sustained attack on you over a period of time. So, like the cyberbully, you may have to be relentless and keep reporting each and every bullying incident until it stops. There is no reason for you to ever put up with cyberbullying.

Information adapted from the helpguide.org, a collaboration through the Harvard Health Publications, Harvard Medical School. Reference: Robinson, L. & Segal, J. (2016). Dealing with Cyberbullying. Retrieved from https://www.helpguide.org/articles/abuse/cyberbullying.htm



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FREE ORAL CANCER SCREENINGS!



Screening is simple, painless & quick

A 3-minute oral cancer screening may just save your life!

Risk factors for oral cancer include:

- Chewing betel nut with tobacco and other additives (Major leading cause of oral cancer in the CNMI)
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- Excessive use of alcohol
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Signs and Symptoms of oral cancer:

- Mouth sore that does not heal
- White/red patch in the mouth that is persistent
- Unexplained bleeding in the mouth
- Difficulty chewing, swallowing, speaking or moving the tongue
- Hard, raised lesion (lump), crusts, eroded areas on the lips, gums or other areas in the mouth

Please call the CHCC-DPH Dental Clinic at 236-8369 to schedule your free oral cancer screening.



SCIENCE NEWS

Let's meet Kagman High's STEM group

MAUREEN MENDIOLA*9th grader
Kagman High School*

Before this competition I was never really interested in STEM projects. Since being grouped with my team members (Aira Ngalongalo, Catalina Cabrera, and Rhea Adolfo), it made me realize that maybe if I take the risk of doing the projects for Environmental Science class then all of my efforts will be worth it. I think a Green Dream campus is having an eco-friendly school that will no longer pay a lot of money or rely on CUC.

My role for the Green Dream campus project is to keep track of everyone's work and progress. Basically, I'm like the "educator" in the group. My other role is to find ways for our teachers to educate their students about sustainability by finding creative ways to teach.

My advice to other students that are interested in STEM is to explore more things in life that you might find uninteresting at first, because your attitude and expression will make others realize it's fun.

I would like to express my appreciation to Ms. Annette Pladevega, our adviser and teacher, for sharing this with us. Without her, we wouldn't know this type of things happening at our school. Also, I want to acknowledge my peers for utting their time into this project. **Go Green, Live Green, Be Green! Team Ayuyu!**

CATALINA KEONA CABRERA*9th grade
Kagman High School*

What inspired me to get involved with the STEM world was my first project about sustainable homes and all my group members that I got partnered up for it. They always encouraged me to do my work and we did it together, we built a sustainable home and we won for our school competition. We then stuck as a group and we are now creating a five-year sustainability plan for our campus.

Sustainability is when you use something that won't harm the environment and our natural resources. We want to make our school a beautiful and well-oriented sustainable campus.

We are planning to build a rain garden at our school and also add in more water catchment systems that with help our school save more money.

Honestly, to the other girls who want to participate in STEM, I suggest you do something you know is a real-world problem and talk about ways to solve the problems. Do all the research that you can and present it so that people can actually use your plan. **Go Green, Live Green, Be Green! Team Ayuyu!**

Congratulations to the beautiful, smart, and scientific girls of Kagman High School who won STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) 2017! We are proud of you!

**AIRA MAY NGALONGALO***9th grade
Kagman High School*

My favorite subject is science. I love the environment and I love to explore nature. My group and I are making a model of our school and proposing to upgrade our school to make it more sustainable.

My role for the team is making our landscape. I designed more trees in our school because when Typhoon Soudelor came, the typhoon destroyed majority of the trees in the school. Also, we will build a rain garden at the slope of the side of our school because when it rains, the rain will lead to the rain garden and there is no need to waste water.

If I were to encourage students to be in STEM Fair or other activities, I would tell them that it's a great chance and opportunity to go off island and explore the world. **So, Go Green, Live Green, Be Green!**

RHEA KESLINA ADOLFO*9th grade
Kagman High School*

Well to be honest, I was never interested or inspired in getting involved in the STEM world. But as I was working, as a team for our Green Dream home project. I realized that learning other things I never heard about inspired me. And I'm happy that I got involved in the STEM Fair this year. My group and I are trying to make our school a Green Dream school, a school that is eco-friendly. Eco-friendly is something that isn't harmful to the environment.

For our school Kagman High, we researched some things that would make our school more eco-friendly. My part in this team is to research the energy production/renewable energy system.

My point of view for all the other girls who would want to join STEM, I recommend that you collect all the important information, so that you won't have any difficulties. I would tell you that being in STEM is a good opportunity for you, and your group to learn and experience more. **Go Green, Live Green, Be Green!**

My School

By FAHIM ISLAM*WSR student, 5th Grade*

William S. Reyes Elementary School is a great place to have fun learning and making new friends every day.

Everyday I come to school I always look forward to seeing my friends and playing some sports.

One of the sports we play is basketball. We love to play on our court at our school. We always try our hardest to help our team win by blocking the ball and scoring it through the hoop.

The one place we mostly talk is the cafeteria. It's fun to eat and enjoy talking to each other. We mostly laugh and talk about incredible things we see. The things we see are like what we do and what other people did.

One thing I like doing at school is science experiments. I love going outside and doing some experiments. One of the experiments was when we



took a big, black plastic bag filled with air and put it under the sun. Then it slowly started going up because the sun made the air in the bag warmer and less dense than the air outside the bag.

I always try to improve my scores here in WSR. Teachers always help us improve our grades here in WSR.

My Life

By KEVIN KANG*Mount Carmel School 8th Grade*

Hello, my name is Kevin Kang and I am 13 years old. I go to Mount Carmel School and I am in 8th grade. I will start telling you about the story of my life.

I was born on Nov. 4, 2003, on Saipan. I am an U.S. citizen and my parents are Korean.

I came to Mount Carmel when I was in 4th grade. What I like about the school is that there are many teachers and students who reach out for you as a family. Our mission is to "educate the whole person to see with Christ's eyes."

There are many things that I like about the island. It has fresh air and gleaming seas. Many good food and nice people.

My hobbies are playing soccer. I used to play for Shirley's. The second is playing piano.

I went to Guam four years and played in the Tumon Bay Music Festival. I won gold and silver medals.

Lastly, my hobby is playing violin too. I played for the Mass with Bishop Ryan.

My life is ordinary. The many diverse cultures and going to school every day is ordinary to us.

I want to study about sports management at the University of Massachusetts and Washington State University. The reason that I wanted to study about that is because I want to become a soccer player scouter. I have many experience of going to many places such as Italy, Spain, Japan, China, USA, Germany, France, England, Austria, Czech, Australia, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

Lastly, I feel so blessed being born like this and living on a small island called Saipan and I will always be proud of being a citizen of the United States of America.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The American dream

The governor's Commonwealth address was truly centered on the American dream. The American dream is something that immigrants and Americans live and die for every day. The challenge since the signing of the Covenant has been to set the conditions in the CNMI for the American dream to be accessible for all living in the CNMI. Governor Torres is a "dreamer" and he made it known in his Commonwealth address—thank God, kudos and thanks governor. I have witnessed many Commonwealth addresses by several governors and one governor who adamantly opposed our relationship in the American family, which is why I must say Gov. Torres has surpassed some of his predecessors in setting the right course for our Commonwealth's quest for the American dream.

Gov. Torres is truly at the forefront of change in the CNMI and he is leading instead of reacting, which can make all the difference in finding prosperity for the people and the CNMI. He has truly demonstrated his capacity for leadership in many ways but what impressed me the most was the fact that he has clearly established a genuine working relationship with our President and the White House, which is something I don't think any previous governor has accomplished at such a high level. The governor's working relationship with the President is a true sign of leadership with a big plus or star for his administration and for the CNMI—a relationship he said he intends to use to help his people!

It was clear to me that the governor fully realizes there are many youth who can pursue their American dream in the CNMI and that some have to leave for college and other op-

portunities that are not offered here, which is also being reflected in the ideology of our new Education Commissioner Deleon Guerrero, who is off to a great start. The governor has made it clear that his administration will be working to help our youth, our education institutions and the people of our Commonwealth in attaining the needs and goals related to our future workforce, which *must* include the CW workforce. He was right when he said, "If we put every local in a job, it will still not be enough to fill all the jobs we need to have a thriving economy," so we must accept the facts and learn to live with and fight for the CW workforce. Speaking of fighting, even though the governor is aspiring the American dream for us, he fully realizes and is willing to fight the federal government on issues that are not in the best interest of the CNMI and I'm sure his good relationship with the President will prove pivotal in our favor on many issues. Being a black man who grew up fighting in the civil rights movement I know you have to fight "our fathers in Washington" in the right battles to make the feds get it right.

The governor recognizes our need to grow in order to address the many challenges we face in helping all citizens, not just locals, because "we will all find prosperity together or continue to flounder in despair." The governor made it clear that we need everyone to be part of the solution. He also mentioned how NMC is just not providing the labor pool of nurses that is needed and I saw it coming years ago but no one listened to me back then, maybe now time has changed the powers-that-be. So here is a possible solution *again*. Why not start an "educational exchange program" with the Philippine government to train nurses since they are so successful in turning out nurses, given most of the nurses at CHCC comes from the Philippines? We need to be building relationships by collaborating and working with the government of the Philippines, instead of a "one-way" arrange-

and scholarships at the colleges and universities which will best suit their interests and our community's needs.

Whether our students attend Northern Marianas College or any other institution of higher learning, we are dedicated to helping our high school graduates compete with the best and brightest students in the world.

Two examples of this effort are Kagman High School students Kloe Borja and Kycel Butters, both part of the innovative Million Dollar Scholars club, which was started under the exceptional leadership of Kagman High School teacher and CNMI Teacher of the Year Gerard Van Gils.

Kloe's home was badly damaged by Typhoon Soudelor and for more than a year, Kloe's family was displaced. Through the outstanding support of her teachers and mentors, Kloe was able to prepare for college and just recently received a full scholarship to prestigious Hollins University in Virginia, as did her classmate Kycel.

These young women would claim more than \$400,000 in scholarships but they are held back by the simple financial support needed to pay for a flight. This is unfortunately common that financial aid is available only after a student arrives at college, but there is little support to help them get there.

Both Kloe and Kycel desire to pursue a quality education, specializing in skills our islands need, before returning home to make good on our investment in them.

For this reason, I am requesting additional investment and improvements for the CNMI Scholarship. My office has met with the stakeholders and we are all dedicated to making clear pathways for our graduates as they progress in their education. Of course, as we invest in our young people we expect them to provide a return on that investment by coming back home, now as educated professionals who will serve their people in the CNMI. Our aim is not to export our people. Our aim is to improve our people, so they can join us in that same endeavor upon their return.

With all the problems that exist in our community. I have spent many stressful nights wondering what the solution is...if there is a solution.

But every once and awhile there are times where we are given the chance to do things that make people's lives better, that give them a chance to succeed. The students we are helping through this program, alongside the hard work of Mr. Van Gils and Commissioner Deleon Guerrero, we are laying the groundwork for a CNMI that will be better than we can even imagine.

I would like to recognize Khloe and Kycel, along with Mr. Van Gils, Commissioner Deleon Guerrero, the PSS board and all teachers here today for their successes and for all of their bright futures.

To my fellow elected officials, you know the work we do is hard. The issues are complex and the solutions are never as easy as we would hope. But it is a challenge we have asked for. As public servants we do not have the luxury of simply pointing to problems, we have the duty to do the hard work to solve them.

But opportunities to do good for people like Khloe and Kycel, for the many men and women struggling against the demons of substance abuse, for the families looking for a means to earn a living, remind us why we as public servants are here.

And I would just ask you to learn and recognize and appreci-

ment to import CW labor—a win-win-win scenario.

Ambrose M. Bennett

Kagman, Saipan

Thank you

On March 25, 2017, in association with the Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation, John Davis presented the 3rd Annual Marianas Muscle Bodybuilding & Physique Contests. We would like to sincerely thank all those who volunteered their time and efforts to make this a successful event:

The competitors: Jennifer Choi, Enrico Valdez, Vicente Aldan, Evan Belcher, Kodin Diaz, Nathan Nogis, and Sean Japor

The judges: Dee Clayton, Ed Villagomez, Greg Borja, Ferleen Esmundo, and Aaron Tomokane

Tom Thornburgh, emcee

Kata Rayphand who sang the national anthem and from Marianas High School: the MHS Refaluwasch Cultural Club dancers and MHS students Jayda Rayphand, Louise Li, Joyce Nijola, David Borja, Casy Huliganga, John Mendoza, Amelito Dallusong, and Julia Expino

We would like to thank Gold's Gym and Marpac, as well as KKMP, KZMI, and Power 99 whose support was invaluable.

We are now looking forward to the CNMI Bodybuilding Championships to be held in July 2017. If you are interested in supporting or participating in this competition or in international competitions as a CNMI representative, please contact John Davis at johnhda-visjr@gmail.com. or 789-9211 for information and requirements.

Jeanne Rayphand

Secretary, NMBPF

STATE

From Page 17

ment officials.

Almost two years ago, this administration formed the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force, which is comprised of DPS officers, CNMI Customs, Department of Corrections, and the DEA, and has opened investigations against 120 individuals for controlled substance violations.

In the past year, the task force has identified two large-scale drug trafficking organizations operating on Saipan. About 232 grams of ice and more than \$100,000 in assets have been seized. More than \$5 million in drugs and assets *off* our streets and *away* from our children.

I signed Public Law 19-86 last month, which allows Customs to conduct K-9 unit drug detections for all inter-island commuter flights and seaport entries. We have also equipped our officers on Tinian and Rota with new vehicles and more resources. And we have secured x-ray machines for all ports of entry. This will step up our enforcement on all three islands.

While these steps are good, this type of investigative work is extremely difficult and dangerous. And the strain on our officers is heavy.

Our law enforcement officials work early mornings, nights, and weekends, and even on holidays, sacrificing time with their families and friends. I am very proud of these brave men and women because they work to protect our community each and every day. Their service is the highest form of citizenship.

It is the reason why I made it a personal commitment to give our law enforcement their first salary increase since 2001. And with our growing economy, I will continue to make sure we give them what they rightfully deserve so they can enforce our laws efficiently and effectively.

Let's give all of our officers a big round of applause for their service and hard work.

For all our futures, and to truly combat crime, to defeat the evils of drug abuse and to eliminate the fear and the pain of criminal activity, we must start with strengthening the education and the values of citizenship within our children.

Our young people represent the best qualities of our islands. They are indigenous and international. They are globally minded and locally focused. Our young people, scholars in the making, will be the engineers to improve our utilities and infrastructure. They will be the doctors who heal the communities that raised them.

So we must raise them well. We must invest in education because education is the best escape from poverty. Education stimulates growth, both intellectual and economic.

We have with us today educational leaders who work diligently for the improvement of our youth, I applaud your efforts and I offer myself as your ally. Our political and educational leaders of the CNMI must be unified in our desire to advance our people.

I have spoken with Commissioner Deleon Guerrero of our Public School System and I was pleased that among her other wonderful initiatives, PSS will soon launch improved college preparation programs to help our students receive admittance

ate those moments and you'll find it's a lot easier to keep doing that work.

Highlights

What I have offered you today are the highlights of the work we have accomplished together and the bright hopes I have for the years ahead. There is still much to look forward to.

We will continue to support the development of affordable, quality housing, through the LIHTC project, homesteads, and other means, while cracking down on illegal hotel operators who are using our scarce housing supply to circumvent CNMI tax laws.

We will reform and enhance our NAP program to ensure that those in need do not have to make a choice between working minimum wage or receiving food benefits.

We will reach out and listen to our small businesses to unveil better ways the CNMI government can support and grow this backbone of our economy.

And we will make sure our villages are safer and prosperous so that you all have the peace of mind to focus on the most important things in life like your families and your friends.

In conclusion, I will work for your dreams, I will not stop in the efforts to make your life better, to fight the fears that keep you up at night, to make it possible for you to work, to feed your families.

I will take it upon myself to steer this ship. To watch the path before us. To ensure the vessel holds together.

But we all need each other. We are on this journey together. I am not asking for you to support me if you are not willing to. I am asking you to understand that our failures are shared. I am asking that you believe our successes have the potential to improve all our lives.

It may be difficult at times to maintain idealism, and cynicism is a logical response to everything negative you see on the papers or on Facebook about a problem that can't be solved.

But this isn't the only response.

You can be a critic, who throws rocks from the sidelines because it's easy and requires little creativity, or you can choose to be a part of the progress through collective action and constructive conversations.

This progress we are seeing now—ordinary people made it happen. Over many years we chose to make this progress.

It was our ancestors, who came here for a better life. It was our founders who had a vision for the future. It was people in government, in the private sector, in nonprofits, in volunteer organizations.

It was us—all of us—that despite our shortcomings and flaws, we chose to move forward with the goal of bettering the lives of our people.

And if we can understand and appreciate that it takes a home, a village, an island, and a community to build on this progress, we will find that it is easier to believe that our islands' best days are definitely ahead and confident that the state of our Commonwealth will be strong.

Thank you. *Si yuus ma'ase yan ghilisou*. May God bless you all and may God bless the Northern Mariana Islands.

Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Tech leaders, others launch \$14M 'News Integrity' nonprofit

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook and Mozilla are among the companies and organizations launching a \$14 million fund to promote news literacy and increase trust in journalism. The nonprofit, called the News Integrity Initiative, will be based at the City University of New York. It will run as an independent project of the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism. Others contributing to the fund include Craigslist founder Craig Newmark and the Ford Foundation. Recent polls show the public's trust in the news industry at a low. False news and misinformation, often masquerading as trustworthy news and spreading on social media, has gained a lot of attention since the 2016 U.S. presidential election. Companies like Facebook are trying to address the issue.

Bank of Japan survey shows uptick in business outlook

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese manufacturers are feeling slightly more upbeat than they were late last year, according to a quarterly survey by the Bank of Japan released Monday. The central bank's "tankan" report put sentiment among large manufacturers at 12, up from 10 in December. Medium-sized and small companies also were more optimistic. The survey's findings fell slightly below economists' forecasts. But they were seen as a sign that improved exports are underpinning growth in the world's No. 3 economy as China's economy stabilizes. Marcel Thieliant of Capital Economics said, "The survey suggests that growth will remain strong for now."

Oil leak discovered by workers in Alaska's Cook Inlet

ANCHORAGE, Alaska

(AP)—An oil leak has been discovered in Alaska's Cook Inlet, causing a major oil and gas producer to shut down two of its platforms there, officials say. Hilcorp Alaska LLC workers felt an impact on the company's Anna Platform shortly before noon Saturday, then noticed an oil sheen and bubbling from underwater, according to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The spill is on the west side of Cook Inlet, to the southwest of Anchorage. The inlet stretches 180 miles (290 km) from the Gulf of Alaska to Anchorage. Officials say leak is from an underwater pipeline that is carrying more than 19,000 gallons of crude oil. In a statement late Sunday afternoon, the Department of Environmental Conservation said the 8-inch-wide pipeline has a maximum capacity of 461 barrels, and the line was at full capacity when the leak started.

Small-business owner should flip script on hiring process

Q: When filling positions for my small business, I routinely encounter an issue that leaves me totally irked and mystified. After posting openings online, we schedule onsite interviews for everyone who sends an acceptable resume. Before talking with me, candidates are asked to complete a detailed questionnaire and watch a video about job requirements.

To help applicants plan ahead, we describe this process and explain that it will take about two hours. However, half the people never even show up. They don't call, they don't email. They simply disappear. I find this pattern completely baffling. What do you think is going on?

A: First, you need to understand that not everyone who submits a resume is seriously interested in joining your business. Some job seekers take a shotgun approach and apply for numerous positions just to see what happens.

When faced with a two-hour interview commitment, casual applicants may decide to bail. And even though ditching job search appointments seems blatantly self-destructive, some people are just that clueless. But while vanishing applicants are undoubtedly annoying, you actually have greater problems.

By investing two hours in everyone with a passable resume, you are wasting valuable business time. To solve

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



this problem, implement a 15-minute phone interview to eliminate unqualified candidates. Next, to improve your onsite interviews, reverse the order of events and put the video and questionnaire last.

By putting the video and questionnaire upfront, you're giving applicants too many clues about how they should answer your questions. Among hiring professionals, this mistake is known as telegraphing. Switching the order will also save time, since only those who truly may be hired need to hear about job requirements.

Finally, once a position is filled, be sure to notify anyone who didn't make it. Knowing how it feels to be ignored, you don't want to treat your applicants as rudely as some of them have treated you.

Q: I will soon be taking a job that has been filled for several months by an interim director. "Jack" had hoped to be given the position permanently but now he will be reporting to me. This is a rather awkward

situation, so how should I approach my discussion with Jack?

A: You are wise to give this some thought before showing up at the office. Even if Jack is a consummate professional, watching you take over his desired job will undoubtedly be difficult. Because the interim appointment indicates that he is both respected and capable, start by acknowledging his contributions and inviting his suggestions.

For example: "Jack, I want you to know how much I appreciate the work you did as interim director, and I'm sure that experience will be helpful in your career. Because I know you have a lot of valuable knowledge, I'd like to spend some time talking about the history of the department and getting your thoughts about the future."

The goal of this discussion is to shift the relationship from competitive to collaborative and to make Jack an ally instead of an adversary. If he responds in kind, then you will be off to a good start.

Nation

STATE PUT ON 'HIGH ALERT'

Tornado kills 2 in Louisiana



The remains of a trailer lie where a woman and her 3-year-old daughter were killed during a severe storm, in Breaux Bridge, La., Sunday, April 2, 2017.

BREAUX BRIDGE, La.

(AP)—A tornado flipped a mobile home Sunday in Louisiana, killing a mother and her 3-year-old daughter as a storm system with hurricane-force winds crawled across the Deep South, damaging homes and businesses.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards put the entire state on "high alert" and warned residents to stay off the roads. He urged people to keep their cellphones charged and close by so that they could get severe weather alerts through Monday.

"It is an extremely dangerous weather event," he said.

Parts of Arkansas and Mississippi were also under a threat of tornadoes, but the bullseye was on much of Louisiana. The system packed heavy rain, large hail and sparked flash flooding. Up to 6 inches of rain could fall in some areas.

A tornado with peak winds of 110 mph (180 kph) traveled for nearly 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) on the ground in the rural community of Breaux Bridge, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) west of Baton Rouge, the National Weather Service reported.

St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Maj. Ginny Higgins told The Associated Press that the tornado touched down soon after a warning was issued.

"Seconds later it hit," Higgins said. "It hit the trailer, flipped it and tore its side off. There was a mother and daughter inside and both were killed."

Higgins said 38-year-old Francine Gotch and 3-year-old Nevaeh Alexander were pronounced dead at the scene. Witnesses told KLFY-TV that the father was at the store when the storm hit and returned home to find the bodies amid the splintered debris.

Relatives described those killed as a fun-loving pair who smiled frequently.

Nevaeh "was the sweetest little girl," said Sheryle Rubin, who's engaged to the girl's uncle. "She was only 3 years old but was the smartest girl in the world. She would've started school in August."

The weather agency warned that it was a "particularly dangerous situation" in Louisiana, which the governor noted was a rare high-level warning. Straight line winds could reach upward of 80 mph (130 kph) winds. Hurricanes have at least 74 mph (120 kph) winds.

"This is a statewide weather event," the governor said. "It's likely to be an all-night event. We don't expect the weather system to leave the state of Louisiana until sometime tomorrow morning."

Another hard-hit area in Louisiana was the city of Alexandria, where winds blew off the roof of a gas station and knocked out power to thousands, KALB reported. Customers and storm employees sought shelter in a beer cooler.

National Weather Service meteorologist John Hart in Oklahoma said there was a significant risk of weather for Mississippi and Alabama as the system keeps moving east.

Fire officials in the Texas village of Point Venture said several people witnessed an apparent funnel cloud there Sunday morning. Travis County Emergency Services District 1 Fire Chief Donnie Norman said there were several structures with severe damage.

"There was one home with pretty heavy damage. The roof was completely removed. There was one resident there at the time, but she received no major injuries," Norman said.

A Texas state trooper reported seeing a suspected tornado touch down early Sunday morning near Center Point, Texas, about 55 miles (90 kilometers) northwest of San Antonio, Texas. National Weather Service meteorologist Yvette Benavides said there were no reports of major or structural damage.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippines arrests 3 South Korean fugitives

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine authorities said Monday that have arrested three South Koreans wanted in their home country, including a man who allegedly swindled his compatriots of more than \$5 million. Interpol had issued red notices for the three and coordinated their arrests with Philippine police and the immigration bureau, said the Philippines' national police chief, Ronald dela Rosa. Among the three is 32-year-old Yong Ho Jeon, who was arrested March 25 in his rented condominium in metropolitan Manila after hiding in the Philippines for two years, dela Rosa said. South Korea's Jeonju District Court has issued an arrest warrant for him on fraud charges. He allegedly belongs to a group that established a call center in South Korea that extorted money from people applying for bank loans. In 2015, he and three cohorts fled to the Philippines, where they continued with their extortion and protection racket, police said. The group allegedly collected 6 billion won (\$5.4 million) from the victims.

Afghan official: 9 civilians killed in southern Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—At least nine civilian have been killed after an Af-

ghanistan army commando unit detonated a cache of ordinance found in southern Helmand province. Omar Zwak, spokesman for the provincial governor in Helmand, said Sunday that soldiers conducted an operation in which they found explosive and ammunition caches and detonated them. Rasoul Zazia, spokesman for the army in Helmand, also confirmed the operation in Lashkar Gah—the capital of the province—late Saturday night. At least two provincial officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak with the media, confirmed that nine civilians, including two children, three women and four men from a single family were killed the explosions caused the roof of their house to collapse.

Authorities: Pakistan shrine custodian kills 20

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP)—The custodian of a local shrine and his accomplices killed 20 devotees after intoxicating them in eastern Punjab province, police said Sunday, in what officials said was the outcome of a dispute over custodianship of the shrine. Senior police officer Mohammad Bilal said the shrine custodian in a village near the city of Sargodha some 320 kilometers (200 miles) north of Multan

was arrested Sunday morning along with four others for killing worshippers with batons and knives. Bilal said another four people were in critical condition. A doctor at Sargodha hospital told Geo TV that the victims were killed while nude and the bodies bore multiple stab wounds and blunt weapons marks. Liaquat Ali Chatta, area government administrator, said Abdul Waheed and his four alleged accomplices were arrested and the matter was being investigated. Chatta said Waheed is a retired government employee and seemed “mentally unstable.”

Bangladesh High Court upholds death for 2 in blogger killing

NEW DELHI (AP)—Bangladesh's High Court on Sunday confirmed the death penalty for two people tied to a banned Islamist militant group for the killing of an atheist blogger critical of radical Islam. The court also upheld jail sentences for six others after appeals were filed challenging the verdicts handed down by a trial court in 2015. Sunday's decision involves the killing of Ahmed Rajib Haider, who was hacked to death in 2013. Haider had campaigned for banning the Jamaat-e-Islami party, which opposed Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan in 1971.



INDONESIA MUDSLIDE

Rescuers recover a motorcycle buried under the mud as they search for victims at a neighborhood hit by a landslide in the village of Banaran, Ponorogo, East Java, Indonesia, Sunday, April 2, 2017. Incessant rains Sunday halted the search for at least two dozen people missing after a landslide. Chief of staff of the local army, Lt. Col. Jemz Ratu Edo, said two bodies were discovered before the search was suspended due to heavy rain. One body had been found Saturday.

World

Death toll in Colombia flood climbs



Firefighters search for survivors in Mocoa, Colombia, Sunday, April 2, 2017. Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos, who has declared Mocoa a disaster area, said that at least 207 were killed but that the death toll was changing “every moment.”

MOCOA, Colombia (AP)—Townpeople desperately searched their ruined homes and the local hospital for loved ones Sunday after a torrent of water, mud and debris swept through a city in southern Colombia, causing more than 200 deaths, many of them children, and leaving hundreds more missing and injured.

Neighborhoods were left strewn with rocks, wooden planks, tree limbs and brown muck after heavy rain caused the three rivers that surround Mocoa to rise up and surge through the city of 40,000 Friday night and early Saturday as people slept. The deluge smashed houses, tore trees out by the roots and washed cars and trucks away.

Search-and-rescue teams combed through the debris and helped people who had been clawing at huge mounds of mud by hand. Many had little left to search.

“People went to their houses and found nothing but the floor,” said Gilma Diaz, a 42-year-old woman from another town who came to search for a cousin.

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In loving Memory of

Jesus “Chumbai” Itocog

We invite †Chumbai's family and friends to join us as we commemorate the First Anniversary of our beloved.

Daily mass will be offered beginning March 31st at 6:00pm at Santa Soledad Church in Kagman. On the final day, Saturday, April 8th, Eucharistic Mass will be 6:00PM. Dinner will be served immediately after the mass at the Santa Soledad Church Social Hall.

Your presence, thoughts and most especially prayers are sincerely appreciated.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Cora, Loremel and the Family.



Overdrive

TO RESEARCH ELECTRIC-VEHICLE BATTERIES

Toyota teams up with universities

By BRENT SNAVELY
DETROIT FREE PRESS

DETROIT—Toyota plans to spend \$35 million on partnerships with several universities, including Stanford, to study ways to make better batteries for electric vehicles.

The Japanese automaker said the universities will use artificial intelligence to test different battery chemistry combinations and to explore whether other materials, such as magnesium, could be used to make better batteries, said Brian Storey, program manager for the Toyota Research Institute.

Today's hybrid, plug-in hybrid and battery electric vehicles are powered by lithium ion batteries—a technology that Storey said was invented nearly 40 years ago.

"And we are just now beginning to perfect them," Storey said.

Existing batteries continue to be costly and have range limitations that have held back industry sales compared with cheaper but less fuel-efficient gasoline engines.

Storey said Toyota and its university partners want to explore new ways of designing batteries, new ways of combining battery chemistry and

other materials.

"There is an infinite number of knobs that you can tune when you are doing development work," Storey said. "The hope is that the use of artificial intelligence will help us sort through the infinite number of things you can do."

Toyota's initial partners include Stanford University, MIT, the University of Michigan, the State University of New York at Buffalo, the University of Connecticut and the British-based materials science company Ilika. Toyota Research Institute also is in ongoing discussions with additional research partners.

Next step toward driverless cars: Autopilot

SAN FRANCISCO—Speed caps are being raised for the autopilot function in newer Tesla cars, from 55 mph to 80 mph, in the form of new software that the company started streaming into its vehicles.

The software update, called Autopilot 8.1, lets the cars pretty much drive themselves on highways up to the posted speed

limit, or a maximum of 80.

The cars will stay in their lanes, turn around curves without driver intervention, and will pass vehicles automatically with a flick of the turn signal.

Human drivers are warned to pay attention, and the system will send warnings if hands aren't placed on the steering wheel periodically, and the car

will slow down and stop if the human fails to comply.

Tesla cars have had Autopilot for years but new models began being fitted with an expanded set of sensor hardware last October. The 55 mph Autopilot speed cap was placed on those cars, which Autopilot 8.1 lifts with its updates that started rolling out on Wednesday. (*Los Angeles Times*)

UNDER THE HOOD

Easy way to check transmission

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: I have a 2002 Mazda Tribute with a six-cylinder engine. When driving on the highway and coming to a steep hill, I'll usually downshift in order to keep the speed going. However, this causes the transmission to stutter. Any suggestions?—Alan MacKenzie, Victoria, British Columbia

A: Your Tribute is equipped with Ford's CD4E transmission. To figure out what's going on, let's start by figuring out if the transmission fluid looks OK and is at the right level. Also, is the check engine light on? If it is, running diagnostics with a scan tool could point you toward the problem area.

Anyway, to check the transmission fluids, drive 20 miles and then come to stop. Slowly run the gear selector through all positions. Then, with the engine idling in park, remove the transmission dipstick, wipe it clean with a lint-free rag, reinsert, remove, and read. The fluid should be in the center of the crosshatched area. Fluid should not be discolored or have a burnt odor. If needed, top off with Mercon fluid.

Now regarding that transmission stutter: Does it occur prior to or during the fourth-

to-third-gear downshift? To double-check, try this on a hill you're familiar with just prior to an anticipated downshift: Keep your right foot steady on the throttle, and with your left foot, press ever so gently on the brake pedal and hold. The torque converter clutch should release, increasing engine rpm slightly. Stay like this and bear slightly deeper into the throttle until the down shift occurs. Does the shuddering still occur? If it goes away, and the shift feels good, chances are the torque converter clutch was slipping. A valve body upgrade may fix this if caught early. If it's the shift that shudders, there's different trouble internally within the transmission.

A change of fluid is worth a try. If your symptom still exists, I'd seek out a sharp Mazda or Ford transmission tech to get to the bottom of this.

Q: I bought a new 2014 Corolla LE with a continuously variable transmission. When I accelerate the car from a standstill, I feel a slight vibration or hesitation that lingers until I pick up a little speed.

I have around 20,000 miles on the vehicle, and it gets good gas mileage. Should I worry about this vibration?

I think I've had this is-

sue since getting the car. I have changed the engine air filter and added conditioner to the gas, thinking I might have sticky valves. I have not said anything to the dealer because, based on experience, I imagine they'd just say something like: "It's your imagination. Everything's working fine. If anything, maybe some dirty fuel."

I think I'm more curious than worried. I have been working on cars since I was a poor teenager. Back then, if I wanted to keep my car, I had to fix it. I did brakes, ignitions, exhaust systems, car body repair and painting, etc., so I am a little familiar with cars.—Ken Kraut

A: Are you still within Toyota's three-year, 36,000 miles warranty? If so, I'd hop on down to the dealer and have your complaint officially documented. Taking a test drive with the shop foreman would be my first request and, if there's an identical vehicle in inventory, compare your concern with it while road testing. It's difficult to say if there's anything wrong with your car. If an identical Corolla exhibits the same feeling, odds are there's nothing wrong. You don't want to let the warranty expire without at least one documented symptom comment or repair attempt.

Life & Style

Aldean wins top prize at ACM Awards, Backstreet Boys shine



Brian Littrell, from left, Nick Carter, AJ McLean, Kevin Richardson, and Howie Dorough, of Backstreet Boys, perform at the 52nd annual Academy of Country Music Awards at the T-Mobile Arena on Sunday, April 2, 2017, in Las Vegas.

AP

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

Florida Georgia Line may have lost entertainer of the year to Jason Aldean, but the country duo owned the Academy of Country Music Awards, thanks to some help from the Backstreet Boys.

The boy band brought the audience to its feet at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas on Sunday night, singing their anthemic classic "Everybody (Backstreets Back)," and getting fans such as Carrie Underwood, Nicole Kidman, Tim McGraw and others out of their seats to sing and dance along.

The audience grew even louder as the Florida Georgia Line members danced some of the memorable choreography alongside the five Backstreet Boys. FGL, which performed three times during the three-hour show, also sang its duet with the Backstreet Boys—"God, Your Mama and Me"—before bringing up the high energy.

They also won two awards: single record of the year for "H.O.L.Y." and music event of the year for "May We All" with McGraw.

The duo helped kick off the ACM Awards, which started with separate performances full of energy, including a tribute to Chuck Berry featuring Joe Walsh, Luke Bryan and Dierks Bentley. The trio performed "Johnny B. Goode" as audience members got out of their seats.

"For the man that influenced every form of music, including country," said Bryan of Berry,

who died last month.

Before that, all of the nominees for entertainer of the year sang their recent hits. A good number of the performers sang more than once during the show on CBS, including Bryan, Underwood, Keith Urban, Bentley, Maren Morris and Aldean, who won entertainer of the year for a second straight year.

"Man, one of the Eagles just gave me an award," he said, looking to Walsh. "I am so thankful. You guys don't know how much I love getting up and doing what I do every day."

Urban, who had success with his genre-bending, Grammy-nominated album "Ripcord," was the top nominee with seven, though he walked away empty-handed.

But he shined onstage when he sang the soulful "Blue Ain't Your Color" with a throwback, black-and-white vibe, while the back of the stage was smoky and bright blue. As he switched to the upbeat, disco-flavored "The Fighter"—where he was joined by Underwood—the camera focused on his actress-wife, who sang and danced along.

Miranda Lambert also had a top-notch performance: She earned a standing ovation after she sang the slow, acoustic-sounding "Tin Man" as the crowd watched along seriously while she hit all the right notes and strummed her guitar.

She won album of the year for her double disc, "The Weight of These Wings," and female vocalist of the year, beating Underwood, whom she hugged after hearing her

name called.

"Carrie can sing me under the table. We've agreed on that," she said onstage. "And I'm glad to see females kicking (butt) these days. I'm so proud to be a part of that. So cheers to all of us girls out there."

The night featured comedy, including a play off the Academy Awards mishap during the best picture winner announcement in February.

"This is odd. David?" asked "Entertainment Tonight" host Nancy O'Dell while holding the card with the name of the song of the year winner.

"Emma Stone, 'La La Land,'" David Copperfield announced, as the audience laughed.

The real winner was Thomas Rhett for "Die a Happy Man."

Rhett also won male vocalist of the year, beating out Urban, Aldean, Bentley and Chris Stapleton. In his seat, he shook his head after his name was announced.

"I don't have a whole lot of words except for: Everyone in this category are my idols," said Rhett, who was teary-eyed and paused throughout his speech. "This is the most amazing award that I've ever received in my whole existence."

Sam Hunt performed his No. 1 hit, "Body Like a Back Road," and he went into the audience to sit next to his fiancé to sing the song. Other performers included Reba McEntire, Rascal Flatts, Little Big Town, Kelsea Ballerini as well as Faith Hill and McGraw, who sang a new duet.

'Boss Baby' dethrones 'Beauty and the Beast' with \$49M debut

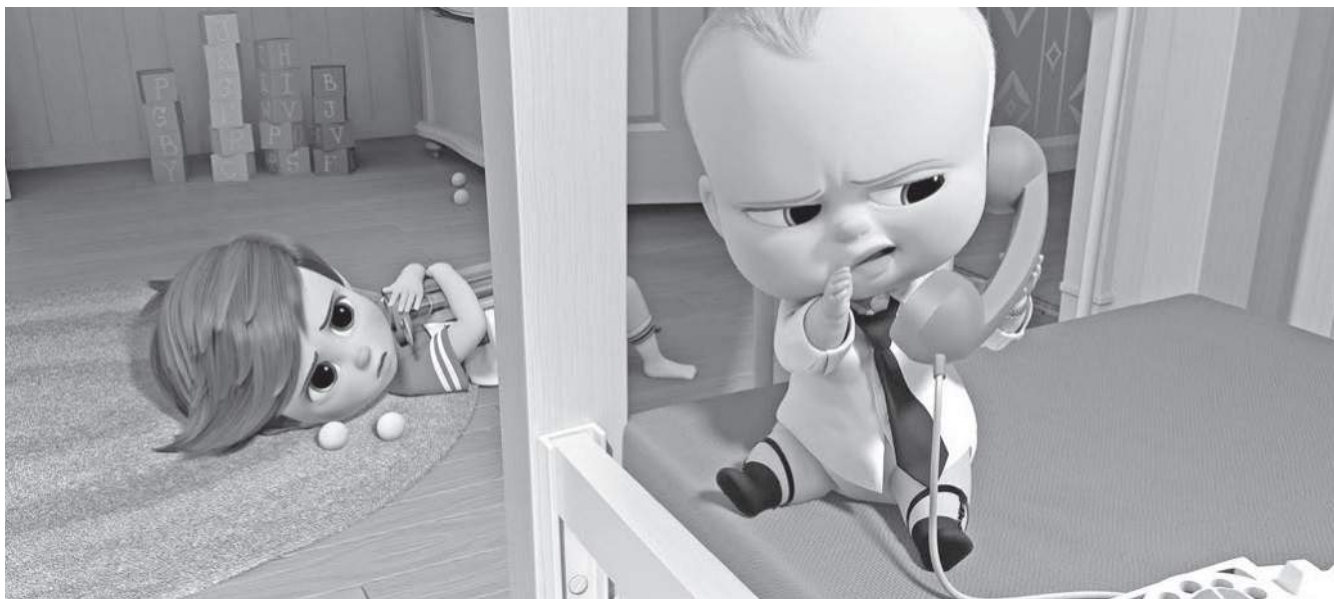
NEW YORK (AP)—The taskmaster toddler of "The Boss Baby" dethroned Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" at the box office with a \$49 million debut, handing its star Alec Baldwin what President Donald Trump might call a "huge" no. 1 opening.

Paramount Pictures suffered another flop with its controversy-plagued "Ghost in the Shell."

The DreamWorks Animation release from 20th Century Fox, starring Baldwin as a suit-clad baby, narrowly edged out the previous two-week leader, according to studio estimates Sunday. The live-action "Beauty and the Beast" took in \$48 million in its third weekend. Final North American ticket sales will be released Monday.

"We expected a decent opening. We didn't expect to be number one," said Chris Aronson, Fox distribution chief.

Despite the popularity of "Beauty and the Beast" (nearly \$400 million domestically



This image released by DreamWorks Animation shows characters Tim, voiced by Miles Bakshi, and Boss Baby, voiced by Alec Baldwin in a scene from the animated film, "The Boss Baby."

in 17 days, and \$876.3 million globally), "Boss Baby" was able to attract its own family audience.

Aronson credited that partly to the appeal of Baldwin, whose impression of Donald Trump on "Saturday Night Live" has lately been ubiquitous. "Boss Baby" also evokes Baldwin's old "Glengarry Glen Ross" character with quips like "Cookies are for

closers."

"Alec Baldwin's voice is recognizable, in general. But he's so topical now because of some of the other things he's doing right now," Aronson said. "It's a very distinctive voice, and if you put it on a baby, it's funny."

"Ghost in the Shell," a remake of a classic 1995 Japanese anime film, couldn't compete with either family-

friendly release. The dystopian science-fiction thriller, starring Scarlett Johansson, opened with just \$19 million, a poor showing for a film that cost about \$110 million to make.

Many took issue with the casting of Johansson as the cyborg protagonist who was Japanese in the original, calling it another example of Hollywood "whitewashing."

"We had hopes for better results domestically. I think the conversation regarding casting impacted the reviews," said Kyle Davies, domestic distribution chief for Paramount. "You've got a movie that is very important to the fanboys since it's based on a Japanese anime movie. So you're always trying to thread that needle between honoring the source material and make a movie for a mass audience. That's challenging, but clearly the reviews didn't help."

Audiences appeared to agree with critics, giving the film a mediocre B CinemaScore.

"Ghost in the Shell" will instead hope to find more eager

moviegoers in Japan (where the casting controversy has not resonated) and China next weekend. Opening in most other countries this weekend, "Ghosts in the Shell" took in a modest \$40.1 million.

Paramount has recently suffered a string of box-office disappointments. Last

week, Viacom Inc. hired former Fox film head Jim Gianopulos to turn around its film division.

In limited release, Focus Features' "The Zookeeper's Wife," starring Jessica Chastain, opened well with \$3.3 million at 541 locations. Based on Diane Ackerman's non-fiction book, the film is about a woman's efforts to save Jews during the Holocaust. It will expand next weekend.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers also are included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

John Cena and Nikki Bella get engaged at WrestleMania

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Wrestlers John Cena and Nikki Bella finished off their opponents at WrestleMania and then decided to take on what could be their biggest challenge yet: Marriage. Cena got down on one knee after the pair defeated The Miz and Marse in a tag team match Sunday at WrestleMania 33. A tweet from WWE showed Cena proposing with a diamond ring. He said he had been waiting "so long" to ask her to marry

him. She said yes and planted a kiss on him.

'Moonlight,' 'Transparent' win at GLAAD Media Awards

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The Oscar winner "Moonlight" has won again, taking best film at the 28th annual GLAAD Media Awards. Barry Jenkins' coming-of-age portrait was honored by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation at the awards held Saturday at the Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills, California. The group

nominated only two films for the award, which it said reflected the dearth of LGBTQ story lines in Hollywood. The other nominee was "Star Trek Beyond." On the TV side, Jill Soloway's "Transparent" won for outstanding comedy series. The best drama series went to the Freeform fantasy "Shadowhunters." Patricia Arquette was honored with the Vanguard Award and tearfully dedicated the award to her late transgender sister, Alexis Arquette. The awards honor the "fair, accurate and inclusive representations" of the LGBTQ community.

Grandparents' pink grad gift comes right out of the blue

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is graduating from high school in May. She has been accepted to a prestigious university, entirely due to her own hard work and dedication.

My father-in-law recently informed us that his new wife had selected our daughter's graduation present, and they are excited to give it to her. They chose a pink luggage set. My husband and I are mystified about why they decided this would be the perfect gift for our daughter. We know she will be embarrassed—but gracious—if she receives this gift in front of our family and friends on graduation day. We would like to spare her the awkwardness and having to return an inappropriate gift.

Abby, would it be rude of us to strongly encourage them to rethink their gift? How do we broach the subject so we don't cause hurt feelings or a rift? We are grateful for their generosity, but we know the gift won't suit our grad.

MYSTIFIED MOTHER

DEAR MOTHER: I do not advise your becoming involved with this. Warn your daughter in advance what the gift will be so she isn't caught flat-footed on graduation day. If she chooses to exchange the luggage for something she feels will be more appropriate, she should do so. Luggage that stands out like a sore thumb may be easier to spot on an airport carousel, but it can also be more vulnerable to

theft than something that blends in.

DEAR ABBY: I have a tough problem. I care very much for my girlfriend. She keeps me in check and does everything for me. However, my best friend's sister and I are extremely close. By close, I mean we have conversations about how things would be if we were dating. We have so much fun together. We never, ever argue, whereas my girlfriend and I are constantly fighting. I legitimately want the other girl, but I don't know what I should do.

SCARED AND STUCK IN ST. PAUL

DEAR SCARED AND STUCK: You are a free man, neither married nor engaged. Because you have romantic feelings for someone else, gather your courage and level with your girlfriend. Tell her that while you appreciate everything she has done for you, you want to be free to date other people and think she should, too. The news will probably come as a shock to her, but it's the honest thing to do and better for both of you.

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband recently died, and I have just learned he had an illegitimate son 25 years ago. The son tracked me down wanting to know things about his biological father. My late husband and I had two children before this one was born. So, do I tell my children they have a half-brother and his

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



aunts they have another nephew?

TRACKED DOWN IN ILLINOIS

DEAR TRACKED DOWN: I see no reason to make any announcements right now. Keep the news to yourself until you are sure that the man wants more contact with his relatives and isn't just looking for medical information that could affect him. You also should make absolutely certain that he truly IS your late husband's son by discussing it with an attorney before sharing any news or details.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

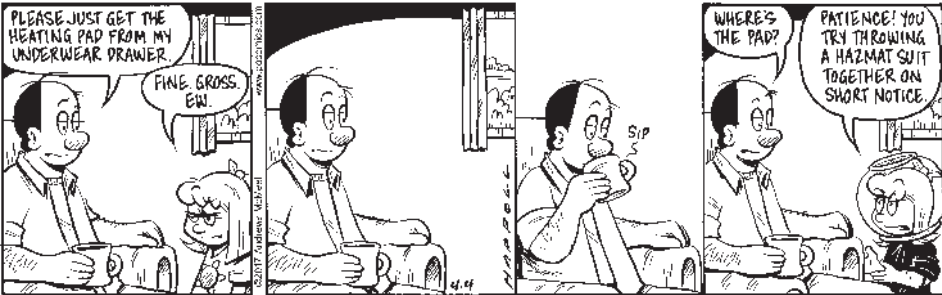


Garfield® By Jim Davis

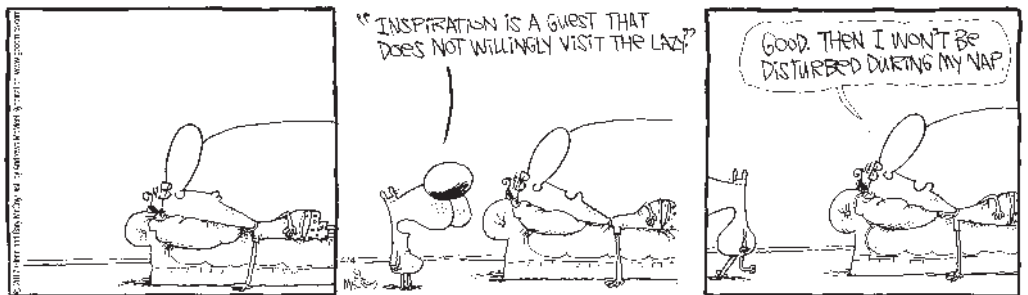


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Stadium top

5 Get ready, briefly

9 "Wham!"

12 Tehran's country

13 Spanish greeting

14 Sundial numeral

15 Helen Keller portrayer in "The Miracle Worker"

17 Potent stick

18 Take five

19 Jazz flourishes

21 Relating to Swiss peaks

24 Hum-drum

25 Auction

26 Waste

30 "Believer"

31 Author Bellow, et al.

32 Copper head?

DOWN

1 Quick swim

2 Mouths (Lat.)

3 Yoga pad

4 Main dish

5 Profs' degrees

6 Lopsided win

7 Caribou kin

8 Spanish rice

9 Like a moonless night

10 Sty cry

11 Sanity

16 Longing

20 Actor McKellen

21 Unre-paired

39 Capri, for one

40 Dazzle

41 Weaponry

44 Prior night

45 Chemical suffix

46 Pouch

47 Med. plan option

33 Ian Fleming specialty

35 Alum county

36 Florida county

37 Capital of Japan

38 Hunting goddess

40 Poet Teasdale

42 Trio after Q

43 Lab container

48 Hearty brew

49 Egg

50 Dutch cheese

51 Director Craven

52 Corrals

53 Erte's style

22 Genie's home

23 Tots' appointments

24 Wall Street optimist

26 Rescue

27 "— Sera, Sera"

28 Online auction site

29 Make over

31 Fizzy drink

34 A

35 Provoked

37 Numerical prefix

38 Sketch

39 Capri, for one

40 Dazzle

41 Weaponry

44 Prior night

45 Chemical suffix

46 Pouch

47 Med. plan option

Solution time: 22 mins.

E	L	B	A	S	A	L	B	A	N	E
C	A	L	E	O	N	I	E	R	A	T
H	I	S	S	Y	F	I	T	L	A	N
A	R	T	T	R	I	B	A	L		
P	L	A	C	E		C	L	U	E	
A	P	E	S	E	E	S	F	I	T	
A	V	E	P	U	L	S	E	M	E	G
B	E	N	E	F	I	T		T	U	T
C	H	A	S	T	E	S	A	Y		
H	A	N	S		R	E	T	R	O	F
U	L	N	A		E	L	E	C	T	I
B	E	A	U		D	O	I	A	X	E

Yesterday's answer 4-4

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Robert Downey Jr., 52; David Cross, 53; Christine Lahti, 67; Craig T. Nelson, 73.

Happy Birthday: Think before you follow through. Emotions will be difficult to control if you aren't pragmatic about how you handle personal situations. Don't feel you have to take care of everyone else's responsibilities for them. Stay focused on doing what's best for you. Problems with partners will surface. The trick will be to know when to compromise and when to walk away. Your numbers are 9, 14, 20, 28, 37, 42, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Making assumptions could lead to poor choices. Observe what everyone else is doing. Time is on your side, and gathering information will be in your best interest. Keep your life simple and concentrate on self-improvement, not trying to change others. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Pay more attention to home, family and domestic changes that need to be addressed. Love should be a priority along with personal improvements that will energize you and provide the psychological boost you need to achieve your goals. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Help others for the right reasons and avoid taking on the impossible. Making last-minute changes due to emotional concerns or revealing information that isn't yours to share will make you look bad. Take the high road. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let emotional situations lead to snap decisions that can damage your personal or professional relationships. Money concerns will escalate if you spend needlessly or are generous to a fault. Moderation in all aspects of life will be required. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Base each decision you make on facts, knowledge and insight. Move forward with the intent to make things better, not only for you, but for those you care about. Don't let anger stop you from doing what needs to be done. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put a little love in your life. Share your feelings and intentions with someone special. Don't let "should have, would have, could have" be the outcome because you are too afraid to voice your desires. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expecting others to want the same things as you will lead to problems. Give others the benefit of the doubt and go about your own business. Engage in personal growth, learning and stabilizing your position, not trying to change others. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a moment to assess your feelings and to consider what moves you the most. Delve deeper into your subconscious and ask yourself questions about what you are doing with your life. Share with someone you love. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Temptation is a state of mind. Don't give in to a sales pitch or emotional manipulation. Look for opportunities that are beneficial to you, not something that will only help someone else. Invest time in yourself. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep an open mind, but don't agree just because someone is enthusiastic or persuasive when presenting you with an offer. Be on guard at all times and protect your assets, possessions and your financial future. Emotional spending will lead to loss. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone you thought you could trust will let you down. Keep personal information a secret. Someone is likely to use emotional tactics to make you look bad. Do your best to bring about positive changes and greater security. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get involved in activities you can enjoy with someone you love or that include the youngsters in your life. Participate in something that you believe in or that concerns you. You can make a difference if you try. ****

Birthday Baby: You are creative, insightful and sensitive. You are determined and energetic.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		6		1						
			4		9	5				
	1	2				6			9	
	2		1	8		9				
1									3	
	7		6	5		2				
7		5				2	8			
		8	3	1						
				7		9				

Difficulty Level ★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	4	8	2	5	6	7	1	9
6	5	2	7	9	1	8	3	4
7	1	9	4	3	8	5	2	6
2	6	3	8	1	7	4	9	5
5	8	1	9	2	4	6	7	3
9	7	4	5	6	3	2	8	1
4	3	6	1	7	2	9	5	8
1	2	5	6	8	9	3	4	7
8	9	7	3	4	5	1	6	2

Difficulty Level ★

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

COLLECTIBLE TEA SETS Solution: 6 letters

N O G A R D E T A R O C E D D
O A U C T I O N R E D O M E E
O S K R A M R E T A W L M S S
N E E G A T N I V Y U O I I
R L S C M E N I F N M S N G
E D T O E I B I O E D S A N N
T N R E R I R O H N E A I E S
F A A T K E I P T I C N V R R I
A H I A P S N K U L R N A E I
O O N T J A A P E E E A V H N
M L E A S F S B S L T C A C E
A D R Y O E V E I S T U B T V
E S R E D E U L A V A T O I U
R H N I A L E C R O P L E P O
C O N T E M P O R A R Y G K S

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Bumgarner makes history; Cubs drop opener



PHOENIX
(AP)—Leave it to Madison

Bumgarner to get baseball off to a smashing start.

Before the World Series champion Chicago Cubs took the field and after the New York Yankees lost their sixth straight opener, Bumgarner struck.

The San Francisco ace, known for his dominant pitching in October, provided an opening day jolt by hitting not one, but two home runs Sunday for the Giants.

Not exactly what Henry Sands came to see at Chase Field. After watching his team lose 93 times last season, the Diamondbacks fan—every fan, really—hoped this would be their season.

“It is the beginning of the year, it is baseball again. It is something I have to look forward to, it is home,” Sands said. “The Diamondbacks are tied for the top, then they work their way down. But first is the goal.”

Exactly where the Cubs finished last November, winning a Game 7 thriller in Cleveland to capture their first World Series crown since 1908.

The Cubs opened Sunday night at St. Louis, and fans of the longtime rivals mixed and mingled outside Busch Stadium before the Cardinals rallied for a 4-3 win on Randal Grichuk’s RBI single in the ninth.

Ted Summers and Katie Moll, both from Manchester, Missouri, walked hand in hand along the concourse. He wore a Cubs shirt, hers featured St. Louis star Yadier Molina —



earlier in the day, the Cardinals catcher added \$60 million and three years to his contract.

They were still coming to grips with the Cubs wearing the crown.

“It was weird,” Moll said. “I don’t know how to explain it. It was just, hard to believe, I guess. Never going to happen again. It’ll take another 108 years.”

“I get that all the time,” Summers said.

There were three games Sunday, with all the other

teams in action Monday.

San Francisco wound up losing 6-5 at Arizona as new closer Mark Melancon blew a ninth-inning lead.

From Fenway Park, where snow from a weekend storm was cleared away, to Dodger Stadium, where Vin Scully will be absent from the broadcast booth for the first time since the 1950 opener, it was time to get back to business.

A sellout crowd was expected at Camden Yards, 25 years

after the stadium opened in Baltimore and began a boom of retro-style ballparks.

Orioles manager Buck Showalter already envisioned a perfect ending.

“I just want the weather to be good, the beer to be cold, the baseball to be good, everybody has a great time, the Orioles win and they want to come back,” he said. “In that order.”

For all the optimism and excitement, there figured to be a somber pregame tone at Target

Field. Before Minnesota hosted the Royals, the Twins planned a tribute to Royals pitcher Yordano Ventura, who died at 25 in a car crash during the winter. “Obviously it’s going to be tough. He’s been on your minds ever since it’s happened,” Royals star Eric Hosmer said. “We’ll see if we can lock it in for a couple of hours, try and get a win and get done with the game and continue to live out his legacy and celebrate his life.”

The first game of the 2017

AP
Arizona Diamondbacks’ Jeff Mathis, right, reaches up to catch a high-hopper hit by San Francisco Giants’ Joe Panik (12) during the fourth inning of an opening day baseball game Sunday, April 2, 2017, in Phoenix.

Major League Baseball season was in Tampa Bay, and the afternoon at Tropicana Field began with a minor glitch when the Yankees’ replay system was a bit blurry.

Not much went right for New York once play began. Showing that spring training stats often don’t mean much, the Yankees—who had the best record in exhibition play—and ace Masahiro Tanaka—who had the top ERA—got roughed up by the Rays, 7-3.

“It happens. He’s human,” Yankees pitching coach Larry Rothschild said.

Corey Dickerson of the Rays singled for the first hit of the new season and teammate Evan Longoria launched the first home run.

With baseball searching for ways to speed up the action, the Yankees and Rays didn’t add much pace to any pace-of-play approach. Their game took 3 hours, 21 minutes.

Tom Giordano didn’t seem to mind. At 91, the former big leaguer enjoyed his 71st pro opening day, now working for the Atlanta Braves as a special assistant to the general manager.

“I see my old buddies again,” he said. “I just love what I’m doing.”

NEW YORK (AP) —The New York Yankees aren’t among baseball’s top two payrolls for the first time in nearly a quarter-century, making cuts along with some other traditional big spenders.

The Los Angeles Dodgers topped the major leagues for the fourth straight opening day but dropped to \$225 million, according to a study by The Associated Press. That’s the Dodgers’ lowest payroll since 2013.

Detroit was second at \$199.75 million and the Yankees, in the midst of a turn toward youth, third at \$195 million. The Yankees had not been outside the top two since 1993, and their opening-day payroll had not dropped this low since 2007, according to the AP’s calculations. New York topped opening-day payrolls from 1999-2013 before falling behind the Dodgers each year since 2014.

“It’s kind of a different feel than when I came up. It’s got a lot more younger look to it,” said Yankees catcher Austin Romine, a member of the or-

Yanks drop to 3rd in payroll; Dodgers lead

ganization since he was drafted in 2007. “It’s interesting. It’s refreshing. It’s nice to see young guys getting chances.”

After setting a baseball record at \$270 million two years ago, the Dodgers declined to \$234 million last year.

The \$4.51 million average salary for major leaguers on opening day was up 1.6 percent from last year’s average of \$4.38 million, the lowest rise since 2011. It followed an offseason with a relatively weak free-agent class in which just one player topped \$100 million—New York Mets outfielder Yoenis Cespedes.

“There are indeed many factors that feed into the numbers every year, and therefore conclusions should not be drawn against any one particular offseason,” union head Tony Clark said Sunday.

Faced with an increase in the luxury tax, some high-revenue teams pared payroll. Boston slashed major league spending from \$190 million

to \$179 million - although the Red Sox owe \$21.5 million this year to a pair of players relegated to their minor league system, Rusney Castillo and Allen Craig.

“The total percentage of MLB revenue that clubs pay to players has remained relatively stable,” said Dan Halem, Major League Baseball’s chief legal officer. “Reducing the amount of payroll disparity is certainly the goal of many provisions of the collective bargaining agreement, but we evaluate the system based on multiyear trends rather than a single year’s experience.”

Many teams in the middle or near the bottom of last year’s list had big boosts. The usually frugal Miami Marlins jumped from \$77 million to \$120 million, and AL champion Cleveland from \$90 million to \$126 million. Others with sizeable steps up included Texas (\$149 million to \$173 million), Wash-

ington (\$147 million to \$165 million), Baltimore (\$146 million to \$164 million), the New York Mets (\$138 million to \$156 million), Colorado (\$113 million to \$128 million), Atlanta (\$99 million to \$126 million) and Houston (\$95 million to \$122 million).

Following their first World Series title since 1908, the Chicago Cubs hiked spending by \$7 million to \$177 million, that after a \$51 million rise going into 2016.

Cutting teams in the midst of rebuilds included the Chicago White Sox (from \$115 million to \$100 million) and San Diego (\$101 million to \$61 million). Just \$34.6 million of the Padres’ total was for players currently with the team.

Milwaukee was last for the second straight season, at \$60.8 million.

At \$33 million, Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw topped salaries for the third straight year. He was

followed by Arizona pitcher Zack Greinke (\$31.9 million), injured Boston pitcher David Price (\$30 million), Detroit pitcher Justin Verlander (\$28 million) and Tigers first baseman Miguel Cabrera (\$28 million).

MLB’s median salary, the point where an equal number of players earn above and below, remained at \$1.5 million, down from \$1.65 million at the start of the 2015 season.

The total of players making \$1 million or more dropped to 487 from 492 last year and 508 in 2015, a sign some veteran bench players may have been replaced by lower-priced prospects. There are 36 players making \$20 million or more, a decrease of two, and 49 players are at the \$535,000 minimum, up from 40 at last year’s low salary of \$507,500.

Average and median salaries decline over the course of the season as veterans are released and replaced

by younger players making closer to the minimum, but this year’s final average is set to top \$4 million for the first time. The players’ association calculated last season’s final average at \$3.97 million, about \$130,000 more than Major League Baseball’s figure.

The AP’s figures include salaries and prorated shares of signing bonuses and other guaranteed income for players on active rosters and disabled lists plus Mets pitcher Jeurys Familia, who is suspended without pay for the first 15 games under baseball’s domestic violence policy but will then draw the rest of his salary, which amounts to nearly \$6.7 million. For some players, parts of deferred money are discounted to reflect current values.

Payroll figures factor in adjustments for cash transactions in trades, signing bonuses that are the responsibility of the club agreeing to the contract, option buyouts and termination pay for released players.

LeBron helps quarreling Cavs hold off Pacers in 2 OTs



CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James made a big 3-pointer in the final minute of the second overtime and scored 41 points to offset 43 by Indiana's Paul George, and the Cleveland Cavaliers opened their April schedule with a 135-130 win Sunday over the Indiana Pacers, who remain on the outside of the playoff picture in the Eastern Conference.

James added 15 rebounds and 11 assists in 52 minutes for the defending NBA champions, who ended the game with some drama as Tristan Thompson and James angrily exchanged words during a timeout in the second OT.

Kyrie Irving made four free throws in the final 16.5 seconds and Kevin Love had 20 points and 12 rebounds as Cleveland stayed within a half-game of Boston for the top spot in the East. The Cavs visit the Celtics on Wednesday night.

George was magnificent in defeat, scoring 19 straight points for Indiana in the overtime sessions and adding nine rebounds and nine assists. But he couldn't prevent the Pacers from their eighth straight road loss.

Rockets 123, Suns 116

In Phoenix, Patrick Beverley scored a career-high 26 points and the Houston Rockets sent the Phoenix Suns to their 12th straight loss with a 123-116 victory despite not having James Harden in the lineup.

Harden was ruled out with acute viral syndrome, the team announced before the game. He had not missed a game all season and entered Sunday tied for second in the league in scoring at 29.2 points per game.

Beverley played despite a sore right ankle and scored 11 of his points in the third quarter. Lou Williams scored 16 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, and Troy Williams, called up from the D-League early Sunday, scored 18 of his career-high 21 points in the first half.

Warriors 139, Wizards 115

In Oakland, Stephen Curry hit nine 3-pointers and scored 42 points, also dished out eight assists, and Golden State moved closer to locking up the Western Conference's top playoff seed by beating Washington.

Draymond Green had his 19th career triple-double and fifth this season with 11 points, 13 assists and 12 rebounds. Curry scored 10 points over the final 1:52 of the first half and shot 15 for 22, including 9 of 14 on 3s, in the Warriors' 11th straight victory. It was his 26th career 40-point game and fourth this season.



Indiana Pacers' Paul George, left, reaches for the ball as Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James drives to the basket in overtime during an NBA basketball game, Sunday, April 2, 2017, in Cleveland. The Cavaliers won in double overtime, 135-130.

Lakers 108, Grizzlies 103

In Los Angeles, D'Angelo Russell scored 28 points and three Lakers had double-doubles in a victory over Memphis.

Memphis fell to 42-35, 1 + games back of Oklahoma City for the sixth spot in the Western Conference with five games to play.

Mike Conley had 20 points and had 12 assists for the Grizzlies, but missed a 3-pointer with 6.3 seconds left that would have tied the score.

Hawks 91, Nets 82

In New York, Brook Lopez scored 29 points, Jeremy Lin had 15, and Brooklyn spoiled Paul Millsap's return to the lineup by beating Atlanta.

Rondae Hollis-Jefferson added 11 points for the Nets, who have won two straight games.

Dennis Schroder scored 16 points, while Millsap and Tim Hardaway Jr. each had 14 for the Hawks, who have lost two straight.

Celtics 110, Knicks 94

In New York, Isaiah Thomas scored 19 points in just 24 minutes and Boston remained atop the Eastern Conference with its 50th victory, beating New York.

Jaylen Brown added 16 for the Celtics, who will be no worse than tied with Cleveland for the best record in the East when they host the defending NBA champions on Wednesday. Boston is off until that showdown, while the Cavaliers were set to play two games in between.

Boston secured its first 50-win season since going 56-26 in 2010-11 and did it easily, shooting 55.6 percent and getting 14 points apiece from Marcus Smart and Al Horford.

Hornets 113, Thunder 101

In Oklahoma City, Kemba Walker scored 29 points to help Charlotte overcome Russell Westbrook's sixth straight triple-double and beat Oklahoma City.

Westbrook finished with 40 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists. It was Westbrook's 40th triple-double of the season, putting him one behind Oscar Robertson's NBA record of 41, set during the 1961-62 season. It was Westbrook's first career triple-double against Charlotte.

Spurs 109, Jazz 103

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard had 25 points and seven assists, and San Antonio held off Utah in a matchup of post-season-bound teams.

The Jazz closed to 102-98 on Joe Johnson's 16-footer with 2:06 remaining that capped a 10-0 run. Leonard then blocked a shot by 7-foot-1 center Rudy

Gobert to help San Antonio preserve the victory.

Gobert had 19 points, 14 rebounds and six blocked shots. Boris Diaw scored 19 points, making all nine of his shots against his former team.

Nuggets 116, Heat 113

In Miami, Danilo Gallinari scored 29 points, Nikola Jokic and Wilson Chandler each added 19, and Denver topped Miami.

Emmanuel Mudiay scored 17 for Denver (36-40), which got back within two games of Portland for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Gallinari hit two straight jumpers late in the fourth to push a one-point Denver lead out to six, and the Nuggets held on at the end to deal Miami's playoff hopes another blow.

Bulls 117, Pelicans 110

In New Orleans, Jimmy Butler scored 39 points and Chicago sustained its playoff push with a victory over recently resurgent New Orleans.

Butler made 14 of 26 shots, including all three of his 3-point shots, to help the Bulls win for the fifth time in six games. Chicago entered the day in a tie for seventh in the Eastern Conference with Miami and Indiana.

Raptors 113, Sixers 105

In Toronto, Serge Ibaka scored 24 points and DeMar DeRozan added 17 as Toronto registered its ninth straight home victory over Philadelphia.

DeRozan tied his season high with nine assists, and Jonas Valanciunas had 14 points for the Raptors, who closed out a four-game homestand by going 3-1. The last time

the 76ers won in Toronto was Nov. 10, 2012.

Mavericks 109, Bucks 105

In Milwaukee, Harrison Barnes scored 15 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter to lift Dallas over listless Milwaukee.

The Mavericks played as

if they still had a chance at the playoffs, while the Bucks frittered away an opportunity to cement their hold on the fifth spot in the Eastern Conference.

Dirk Nowitzki and J.J. Barea each had 17 points as the Mavericks snapped a four-game losing streak.

Federer beats Nadal for third time

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. (AP) — Weary from three months of winning, Roger Federer hit one last shot Sunday, whacking a celebratory forehand into the stands to punctuate his victory over Rafael Nadal in the Miami Open final.

Now comes a well-deserved two-month break.

"I'm not 24 anymore," Federer said. "I need a rest. My body needs healing."

He's not complaining. At 35, Federer is playing some of the best tennis of his career—so good he's even dominating his longtime nemesis. Federer beat Nadal for the third time this year, 6-3, 6-4, to become the oldest men's champion in the 33-year history of the tournament.

Federer also defeated Nadal in the Australian Open final in January, and two weeks ago en route to the Indian Wells title. He's the first three-time champion this year on the men's tour—and ready for a break.

The father of four has an exhibition scheduled next week, but plans to skip the bulk of the clay court season before returning for the French Open in late May.

"I want to stay healthy," Federer said. "When I'm healthy and feeling good, I

can produce tennis like this. If I'm not feeling this good, there's no chance I'll be in finals competing with Rafa."

Federer said he arrived at Key Biscayne with low expectations, given his heavy workload of late, and felt tired in the final. Humid, 85-degree weather didn't help.

He won anyway. Nadal wore neon yellow, but there was no slowing Federer.

"On the big points I was just maybe a little bit better," Federer said. "It was more of a fight mode I was in today trying to stay afloat. It has been a draining week."

The victory turned back the clock, as Federer has done so often of late. He also won Key Biscayne in 2005 and 2006.

Nadal fell to 0-5 in Key Biscayne finals, including in 2005 against Federer. He was also runner-up in 2008, 2011 and 2014.

"It's disappointing for me that I am trying during all my career," Nadal told the crowd with a smile during the trophy ceremony. "Every three years I am in this position, but always with the smaller trophy."

Said Federer to his rival: "I

truly believe you are going to still win this tournament.

You're too good not to."

Both players agreed the match was closer than the score and decided by a handful of points.

"I got a few important ones," Federer said. "I played the right way, like I have so often done this year, just very committed, and it paid off at the very end."

Federer erased all four break points he faced, and while he failed to take advantage of five early break-point chances himself, he broke in the next to last game of both sets.

Serving for the championship at 5-4, Federer hit his only double-fault on the first point but quickly regrouped. The next point was the longest of the match, and Federer ended the 19-shot rally with a forehand winner in the corner.

When Nadal sailed a return long on the final point, Federer took the ball on a bounce behind the baseline and sent it into the stands, then waved both hands in jubilation. The sellout crowd was evenly divided in its support but roared for the popular champion.



Gonzaga's brand of winning leads to broader growth

GLENDAL, Ariz. (AP)—In the summer of 1998, Gonzaga University was a small private college in Eastern Washington that barely made a blip on the public consciousness, even within its own region.

To shake things up, administrators decided to change the school's visual identity. The school colors went from light blue and white to a deep navy. The odd-looking mascot—a bulldog in a sailor's cap—needed an update, too, so it became the snarling canine with the spiked collar of today.

A new brand was born.

"We made a conscious decision to change who we were," Gonzaga athletic director Mike Roth said. "We decided we wanted people to see us differently, too, and to do that we had to change the way things looked. We sat down that summer and decided, we need a new logo. We made it and



AP
Gonzaga guard Josh Perkins (13) blocks a shot by South Carolina guard PJ Dozier, right, during the second half in the semifinals of the Final Four NCAA college basketball tournament, Saturday, April 1, 2017, in Glendale, Ariz.

thought, 'That's pretty cool.'"

The logo got a huge boost of popularity the next men's basketball season, when the scrappy Bulldogs made a run to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament, becoming synonymous with success as the program continued to grow.

Under the guidance of coach Mark Few, Gonzaga became a national powerhouse, reaching the NCAA Tournament 19 straight times with multiple trips to the Sweet 16.

That snarling bulldog is now on the sport's biggest stage as Gonzaga gets set to

play mighty North Carolina in Monday night's national championship game.

"We don't pretend or think we're anywhere near the level with the tradition of Carolina or Duke or Kentucky," Few said. "But at the same time, I think we do feel we've been a national entity for quite some time. The product, the brand, the players, the team that we're putting out there on the floor we feel can compete with anybody in the country on any given night."

The basketball program's success has brought national attention to a school in the inland Northwest that likely would have otherwise remained mostly anonymous outside of Spokane, Washington.

The more the basketball team won, the more people

became interested in learning about Gonzaga and Spokane. That interest turned into a familiarity as the Zags continued to win.

With that exposure came massive growth on the campus along the Spokane River.

Enrollment has nearly doubled to 7,800 over the past 20 years, with the number of full-time faculty up 55 percent. New buildings dot the campus, with more under construction, including the Volkar Center for Athletic Achievement next door to The Kennel, where the Zags play. Budgets have increased as the school's endowment has climbed over \$200 million.

"The visual part of that brand has been out there for a long time and when people see that mark, they think Gonzaga basketball and that helps the brand of the institution beyond that," Roth said. "We want them to see that, wow, that's a great place to get an education, wow, that's a great place to be an engineer, they have a great school for business."

"To me, that's what we've been able to accomplish over all these years with this basketball program," Roth said. "The brand has given people the window in Gonzaga University and now even a window into Spokane."

Despite the recognition, the basketball program had to fight perceptions that its brand didn't match up with the bigger programs.



IOC denies covering up 2008 Olympic doping cases

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP)—The IOC denied Monday that it covered up doping cases from the 2008 Beijing Olympics after a German TV program revealed that positive tests by Jamaican sprinters were not prosecuted.

German documentary maker Hajo Seppelt said "several" of the Caribbean island's athletes had traces of clenbuterol, a banned muscle-building substance, in recent re-tests of 8-year-old urine samples.

No athletes were identified. Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt won three gold medals

in world-record times and was the star of the Beijing Games.

The IOC said Monday it concluded there was no pattern of organized cheating, after consulting the World Anti-Doping Agency.

"After careful consideration, WADA informed the IOC further to the pattern analysis that the IOC had conducted that WADA could not find any significant and consistent pattern of abuse of clenbuterol in these cases and that it would be appropriate not to take these cases any further," the IOC said in a statement.

The low levels of clenbuterol found, "below 1ng/ml," was in the range to suggest "potential meat contamination cases," the IOC said.

China has a reputation for using clenbuterol in livestock farming to increase animals' muscle and Olympic athletes were warned of contamination risks before going to Beijing.

Without naming Jamaica, the IOC said the number of clenbuterol cases in the re-tests was widespread.



"During the re-analysis of the stored urine samples from the Olympic Games Beijing 2008, the laboratory found in a number of cases

athletes from a number of countries and from a number of different sports, very low levels of clenbuterol," the IOC said in a statement.

The World Anti-Doping Agency cited a legal precedent when FIFA did not prosecute more than 100 positive tests for clenbuterol among players at the Un-

der-17 World Cup in 2011 in Mexico, which also has a reputation for using the drug in farming.

"We acknowledge that the clenbuterol meat contamination issue is unsatisfactory," WADA director general Olivier Niggli said in a WADA statement. "We will continue to invest in scientific research to try to solve this issue as quickly as possible."

Seppelt and German network ARD have consistently revealed and reported on doping scandals, including working with whistleblowers to expose systematic cheating in Russian track and field.

SSC

From Page 28

petitor and we thank them for their participation and congratulate them on a great showing," he added.

As for SSC swimmers, Winkfield acknowledged Jinnosuke Suzuki for setting four age group records in the boys 11 to 12 division. He also took

note of the several personal best times SSC swimmers achieved.

"All swimmers boasted at least 80 percent personal best times and the remaining swimmers were perfect in terms of personal best times. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication that they show in the pool every day. It also says volumes about the support that they get from home. Swimming is a

fun sport, but is very demanding and often times cruel. Cruel in the sense that you cannot rely on others for help, your performance is a reflection of your attitude and effort," the SSC coach explained.

"Overall the swim weekend was a great success. SSC swimmers represented themselves, their team, their island, and their sport well. Now

back to training to finish off the season strong," he added.

The club will have three more events this season. First up is the Escape from Managaha on April 14, while the Sak Sprint Meet, which is held in recognition of Saipan Swim Club founders Bill and Jean Sakovich, is set for April 29. For its final tournament, SSC swimmers will head to Hawaii

to compete in the 69th Keo Nakama Swim Meet that will be held on July 4 weekend.

Meanwhile, SSC would like to thank the following for making the international meet and the ocean swim possible: the swimmers' parents, timers, Naked Fish, Marianas High School students, Marianas Visitors Authority, and Department of Public Safety, Boating Safety.

MPU

From Page 28

MP United Blue debuted with a 3-0 victory over Southern United and posted another shutout win (3-0) against Vivid Blue. The Gene Weaver and Alex Park-coached team continued its streak with a 1-0 triumph over Paire and then completed a sweep of the elimination round with a 6-0 rout of sister squad MP United Silver.

Paire also prevailed in its first game after blanking MP United Silver, 3-0, while the former got its second victory following a close 1-0

win against Southern United. Then after falling to MP United Blue, Paire denied Vivid Blue an entry to the finals and earned a chance to win its second championship after outclassing the visiting Japanese team, 2-0.

However, Paire missed the opportunity to get back-to-back titles on Saipan as it misfired in the finals and failed to contain Basnet. Actually, Paire did a great job preventing Basnet and other MP United Blue strikers from finding their target in the 15-minute first half and in the opening minutes of the second.

Basnet then ended MP United Blue's drought by converting his shot in the 21st minute. He made it two in a row with his goal five minutes later, while Kim widened the gap with his shot in the 27th minute. Basnet then capped MP United's domination of Paire in the second half as he completed a hat trick with just about a minute left in the finals.

The MP United striker went on to win the Golden Boot award and the Team MVP plum. Basnet scored eight goals in the entire weekend tournament to beat teammate

Rintaro Miyawaki (4), Southern's Frank Basa (3), Vivid Blue's Tsujita Hayato (3), and Paire's Dylan Mister (5).

Basnet's teammate Jerick Quimzon got the Golden Glove award for not allowing a single goal in the competition, while Kaito Ito of Vivid Blue brought home the MVP award. Other Team MVP winners were Southern United's Michael Peters, Mister, MP United Silver's Tori Weaver, and Vivid Blue's Taiki Miyashiro.

Vivid Blue also took the third place award after beating Southern United in a shootout,

3-2. The consolation match went to a shootout after Hayato forced the standoff with his goal in the last two minutes of the 30-minute game. Hayato also hit the goal that sealed the win for Vivid Blue in the shootout, while Miyashiro and Kakeru Tomotaka also scored for the visiting squad.

Southern United knocked in its first two attempts with Basa, who scored for his team in regulation, shooting first and Darien Quitugua giving the squad its second goal before Vivid Blue goalie Ibuki Tanaka blocked the shots of the next two shooters.

best times are 11.37 seconds (100m) and 23.93 seconds (200m), while Calvo is entered in the 100m run (11.78 seconds) and long jump (5.44m).

For the U18 contest, Quitugua and Pangelinan will both race in the 100m and 200m, while Santos has two throwing events—shot put (9.63m) and discus (29.37m). Pangelinan's best time in the 100m and 200m are 14.82 seconds and 33.03, while Quitugua has faster records with her 11.72 seconds and 24.44 seconds.

The nine CNMI athletes will be joined in Fiji by Rangamar and NMA general secretary Robin Sapong. The Commonwealth bets will be up against the representatives of the host country, American Samoa, Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Guam, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Norfolk Islands, Palau, Tahiti, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and powerhouse New Zealand and Australia.

2017 SSC International Meet

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Swimmers jump from the starting block during the 100m freestyle event in the 2017 SSC International Meet held late last month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



Swimmers from the CNMI and Guam plunge into the pool during the 50m backstroke race.



Saipan Swim Club's Jinnosuke Suzuki competes in the 800m free-style race.



Two swimmers are in a tight race in the 100m butterfly event.



Palau, CNMI, and Guam swimmers get ready for the 100m backstroke swim.



Dolphin Club Saipan's Ray Alvarez swims in the 100m breaststroke event.



Saipan Swim Club's Jin Ju Thompson is about to complete the first lap of the 100m butterfly event.



Saipan Swim Club's Mark Jainier Chavez gets some air during the 100m freestyle swim.



**Bumgarner
makes history;
Cubs drop
opener**

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

**LeBron helps
quarreling
Cavs hold off
Pacers in 2 OTs**

PAGE 25



28 TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MPU Blue tops Pacific Ocean Cup VII



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United Blue's Rintaro Miyawaki, left, and Paire's Dylan Mister ward off each other during the first half of their title game in the Pacific Ocean Cup VII held last Sunday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Blue avenged its loss to Paire Football Club after coasting to a 4-0 victory in their finals rematch in the Pacific Ocean Cup VII last Sunday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Rohan Basnet made a hat trick in the winner-take-all finale to hand MP United Blue the championship in the five-team competition that also fea-

tured the visiting Vivid Blue of Japan, the pledging Southern United Football Club, and MP United Silver. Dylan Kim scored the other goal for MP

United Blue, which bowed to Paire in a shootout, 2-4, during the Pacific Ocean Cup V held here in April 2016. Pure FC of Japan won the Pacific



Ocean Cup VI, which Vivid Blue hosted in September last year.

MP United and Paire collided anew for the Cup after placing in the Top 2 in the round-robin elimination. The eventual champion was perfect in the preliminary round, winning all its four matches.

See MPU on Page 26

SSC International Meet draws over 100

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The turnout in last month's 2017 Saipan Swim Club International Meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool surpassed the century mark.

Bulk of the participants came from host SSC and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan, which entered 29 and 37 swimmers in the tournament held from March 23 to 25. Guam's Manhoben Swim Club and Manukai Athletic Club had 10 each, and Andersen Marlins fielded one. Palau and Pohnpei also joined the three-day swim



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Swim Club's David Boyer races in the 100m butterfly event in last month's 2017 SSC International Meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

meet and sent eight and four athletes, respectively.

"We were happy to welcome back Manhoben, Manukai, and Anderson Marlins after a two-year hiatus. It was nice to have them here as they added more texture to the meet and it is always more fun for the swimmers to swim against friends," SSC head coach Jacoby Winkfield said.

"We were thankful for Palau and Pohnpei's commitment to coming to the international meet again this year and seeing the growth and maturation of their swimmers both in and out of the water. Tsunami Saipan has been a staple com-

See SSC on Page 26

9 athletes off to Oceania tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics will be sending nine athletes and two officials to Fiji this summer to participate in the 2017 Oceania Area Championship.



Micronesian Athletics Championship (2016) Outstanding Female Athlete Zariniae Sapong leads Team CNMI and will be joined by Beo Ngirngochor, Traven Quitugua, Jerald Castillo, Daniel Calvo III, Riella Ann Billy Ichio, Chloe Salvosa, Annalei Santos, and Jamie Pangelinan.

Sapong won two gold medals, one silver, and two bronzes in the MAC held in Pohnpei last year, getting her two golds in the 100m and 200m sprints. In Fiji, which will hold the Oceania Area Championship in Suva from June 29 to July 1, Sapong will also compete in the women's open division's 100m and 200m runs. Her best times in the two sprints are 13.35 seconds (100m)

and 27.87 seconds (200m).

Ngirchongor and Ichio are also entered in the open field with the former participating in three events—200m (23.58 seconds), 400m (52.74 seconds), and 400m hurdles (1:00.89). Ichio, who will be representing the Commonwealth for the first time, will race in the 100m (13.89 seconds) and 200m (25.77) and will also compete in the javelin throw.

In the U20 division, the CNMI has three entries in Castillo, Calvo, and Salvosa. Salvosa, who won two gold medals (javelin throw and long jump) for the Commonwealth in last year's MAC, this time will only do the long jump (4.16m) for the field events, but has two runs to her schedule as she will join the 100m (13.72 seconds) and 200m (28.21 seconds) races in Fiji.

Castillo, who topped the 100m in last year's MAC, will also participate in the two sprints where his

See 9 on Page 26



Bill Jaynes

KASELEHLIE PRESS PHOTO

Chloe Salvosa lands on the sand during the long jump event in last year's Micronesian Athletics Championships in Pohnpei. Salvosa and eight other CNMI athletes are heading to Fiji this summer for the 2017 Oceania Area Championships.